

Monday March 30 1998

Abkhazian 0.50
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Andorra 0.50
Azerbaijan 0.50
Belarus 0.50
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Bosnia 0.50
Brazil 0.50
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Canada 0.50
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Denmark 0.50
Estonia 0.50
Finland 0.50
France 0.50
Germany 0.50
Greece 0.50
Hong Kong 0.50
Hungary 0.50
Iceland 0.50
Israel 0.50
Japan 0.50
Korea 0.50
Latvia 0.50
Lithuania 0.50
Luxembourg 0.50
Malta 0.50
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Monaco 0.50
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Spain 0.50
Sweden 0.50
Switzerland 0.50
Taiwan 0.50
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The Guardian

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INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Media Guardian

Has the BBC sold its soul?

Scratched but unscarred: Yentob's defence
G2 with European weather

A fresh look at Britain's past

Simon Schama's magical history

G2 pages 2-3

Five pages of sport

David Lacey, Paul Hayward
and Michael Walker see
Chelsea make Boro get
the blues at Wembley

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Death squad conspiracy



Army link to UDA assassinations

John Mulholland
Ireland Correspondent

SINN FEIN last night demanded a judicial inquiry into one of the murkiest controversies of the Troubles as fresh evidence emerged of army collusion with loyalist paramilitaries in the assassination of suspected IRA terrorists.

The nationalist SDLP called for further investigation after the publication of details from classified security force files indicating that the army agent Brian Nelson was involved in 15 murders, 15 attempted murders and 62 conspiracies to murder.

Sinn Fein will today publish its own dossier on the affair, passed to Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, before Christmas, as the furor threatens to overshadow the final push for a political settlement.

One Sinn Fein source said: "This is bigger now than Bloody Sunday. That was one incident, however horrific. This is a conspiracy over several years involving the political and military establishment. It is much more dangerous for the British administration."

Mr Nelson alone was ever charged with offences arising from the affair, after consultation with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the then Attorney General. He was persuaded to plead guilty to five charges of conspiracy to murder, and there was no trial. He was jailed for 10 years and now lives in England.

Military intelligence officers said the operation was intended to save lives, and they had passed to Special Branch the names of 217 people under threat. But an inquiry was able to establish that only two lives — one of them Gerry Adams's — were saved as a result.

Mr Adams, Sinn Fein's president, said yesterday that Sir Patrick's involvement in a deal in which the murder charges were dropped raised questions about the involvement of the Thatcher and Major governments in an "illegal and murderous" strategy.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist security spokesman, said: "There is probably a degree of exaggeration in the story. One is obviously concerned about the Nelson affair. One is less concerned about the killing of IRA members. There must be, within legal parameters, efforts to run agents and exploit counter-terrorist opportunities."

Successive governments have denied claims that military intelligence was involved in murdering IRA members. The army said yesterday that the "serious" allegations were thoroughly investigated. No charges were brought against its personnel.

The documents, disclosed in the Sunday Telegraph, reveal that a covert unit of military intelligence recruited Mr Nelson, a former soldier in the Black Watch, and infiltrated him into the Ulster Defence Association.

He was one of 100 agents run by 50 officers in the Force Research Unit (FRU).

The files detail accounts of Mr Nelson's meetings with his army handlers between 1987 and 1990. His role was to ensure that "proper targeting of Provisional IRA members (took) place prior to any shooting".



The emblem of the Ulster Defence Association, which was infiltrated by Brian Nelson (above left) with the army's help

ensure that "proper targeting of Provisional IRA members (took) place prior to any shooting".

Mr Nelson, paid £28,000 a year, apparently saw his role as an army agent helping the UDA to assassinate "only legitimate targets". At least one of his victims had no terrorist connections. Terence McDaid, aged 30, was shot dead by the UDA in May 1988. The intended target was his brother, but Mr Nelson had given the wrong address.

One issue that appears not to be addressed in the documents is the UDA's killing of the Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane in February 1989. Mr Nelson is said to have told his army handlers two months before Finucane's shooting of a plan to murder him.

That it only targeted terrorists, and published a confidential security force file identifying Maginnis as an IRA intelligence officer. Amid a political outcry, the RUC announced an official inquiry into whether the security forces were colluding with loyalist paramilitaries to kill republicans. John Stevens, Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, was appointed to head it. According to the files, the FRU mounted a successful

rearguard action to prevent Mr Stevens uncovering his relationship with Mr Nelson. Mr Stevens planned to arrest him on the relatively minor charge of possession of information likely to be of use to terrorists. Mr Nelson fled to England and a fire destroyed much of the material gathered. He was arrested on his return to Belfast, and ignored advice from his handlers to deny his role as an FRU agent.

Lloyds 'secret' rates exposed

Julia Finch

LLOYDS TSB, the UK's biggest high street bank, is being forced to withdraw a memo which orders its branch staff not to switch customers into accounts that would pay them higher rates of interest.

The bank will today write to every one of its 2,600 branches to "clarify" the contents of an internal memo, which tells staff it is "unacceptable" to inform current account customers that they could make better returns by shifting spare cash into accounts with higher returns.

The average balance in a Lloyds TSB account is understood to be £2,000 and if half of every balance was moved into an alternative instant access account operated by Lloyds, the bank would have to pay an estimated £160 million in additional interest in a year.

Lloyds, which has 7 million customers and last year made more than £3 billion profit, pays 0.5 per cent interest on its current account. Its instant access account offers 3.4 per cent.

The memo told staff they could lose out on incentive scheme rewards — including cash bonuses and foreign holidays — if they were caught switching cash out of low interest accounts.

A spokeswoman for Lloyds TSB said the memo, entitled Key Sales and Service Objectives, was designed to improve service levels and had been "quoted out of context".

It was written by Mike Mitchell, the bank's national sales manager, and circulated in January. It was designed to stop its staff opening new accounts merely to receive incentive scheme points.

Staff are allowed, however, to make other suggestions to customers, including selling them financial services such as unit trust investments and private health insurance, which generate substantial profits for the bank.

Branch workers who successfully sell such products receive incentive scheme rewards, directly related to how much profit the bank makes from them.

The bank's spokeswoman said: "The spirit of this memo, of putting customers first, has been obscured by sentences which are meant to say one thing but may be interpreted as saying another."

In some cases, she claimed, those with high sums to invest can get better returns from their existing current accounts because the interest rate rises as the balance goes up.

But she admitted that the memo tells staff that all current account switches "must be initiated by the customer", and that staff are not allowed to advise customers their money might earn better returns in alternative accounts.

The only time such suggestions can be made, says the memo, is in a formal one-to-one interview with the customer.

The bank insisted that the memo was designed to improve customer service, but it has angered branch staff, who believe they are being ordered not to operate in the customers' best interests.

The Lloyds spokeswoman added: "We agree that this memo may be misinterpreted."

The bank's deputy chief executive, Michael Fairley, has intervened and will be rewriting the memo.

Prague Writers' Festival 1998

The 8th Prague Writers' Festival presents a selection of fine authors from the Czech Republic and around the world. Meet them at the Franz Kafka Centre, Old Town Square, at 7 pm from 20 to 25 April.

Monday 20 April
Lawrence Ferlinghetti
Antigone Kefau
Michael March
Josef Topol

Tuesday 21 April
Martin Amis
Brian Patten
Per Olov Enquist
Isabel Fonseca

Wednesday 22 April
Pedro Tamen
Marco Souza
Mia Couto
Germano Almeida
Tahar Ben Jelloun
Miroslav Holub

Thursday 23 April
Lilian Fasching
Robert Menasse
Claudio Magris
Ludvik Vaculik

Friday 24 April
Roba Crealey
John Banville
Dante Maraini
Rhea Galanaki
Mila Haugová
Vera Prokešová
Daniela Fischerová

Saturday 25 April
Ryszard Krynicki
Andrzej Szczypiorski
György Petri

The Festival is dedicated to Bohumil Hrabal. Patron: the City of Prague.

For further details, please contact the Prague Writers' Festival Foundation, Staroměstské nám. 22, Prague 1 tel/fax + 420 2 24 21 30 30

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The Guardian

How Woody became a prophet without honour



Mark Tran
and Rory Carroll

ACASE of bad timing or ironic delay? You decide. Woody Allen, allegedly 10 years past his peak and sliding into complacency, has been made Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres by the guardians of French culture.

A bit late in the day? Except that the shrewd souls at Paris's Ministry of Culture struck while the neurosis was hot and made the award on March 31, 1998. Alas, no one told Allen, now aged 58, and he stum-

bled into the Nineties unsung by the French. After the New York Times last month included him in a list of American stars honoured by the French, Allen wrote to the reporter, Alan Riding.

"You may be inflating my stature in France. To the best of my knowledge I have never received any personal honours there... In short, while I consider it an honour if your description of me were true, as I love the French, I remain there, as here, a total commoner unable to fix a parking ticket."

Untrue, untrue, replied Mr Riding, relieved to escape the paper's corrections column.

"If for some reason he [Allen] was never informed, do tell him that he can pick up his medal and ribbon at the Ministry of Culture next time he wanders through Paris."

It was the type of twist waiting to happen to a man who forged a career playing crumpled apparent losers, who more often than not got the girl and thwarted Neanderthal opponents. The award recognised Allen's status as author, director and actor, and the decree was signed by Jack Lang, then France's Minister of Culture. When not

presented personally, the award is sent by diplomatic pouch to the nearest French embassy or consulate for delivery.

But for some reason, Allen's medal was never sent.

The ministry says it will be happy to send a copy of the original decree and a duplicate of the official diploma.

"We would have to ask Jack Lang to sign it again, which is a bit complicated, but we could do that because he is still of this world," said Jacques Daviau, secretary of the Conseil de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.



No wonder this man is smiling. He used to be ranked number 10 in the world at tennis. Now he is ranked number one in the UK for pay and perks. It's £70m — and the shareholders are not happy. See page 2

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A campaigner for cannabis law reform takes in the scene from a lion in Trafalgar Square where 11,000 people gathered for a rally on Saturday in support of legalising the drug. Hundreds of protesters openly smoked joints on the demonstration, but there were just two arrests. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW TESTA

New poverty trap 'may swamp welfare-to-work policies'

Income gap between rich and poor narrows but ministers warned on value of benefits

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

POSITIVE effects of the Government's welfare-to-work policies could be "swamped" by worsening poverty among people who remain dependent on benefits, ministers are today warned.

A report for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation says that pensioners, lone parents with pre-school children and some long-term sick and disabled people will grow relatively poorer if the Government continues to raise benefits only in line with prices.

The report, by John Hills of the London School of Economics, updates the 1995 findings of an inquiry into income and wealth, set up by the foundation.

Professor Hills says the income gap between rich and poor, which had widened greatly during the 1980s, started to narrow under the premiership of John Major.

But it could widen again if the real value of earnings accelerated away from the real value of prices-linked benefits.

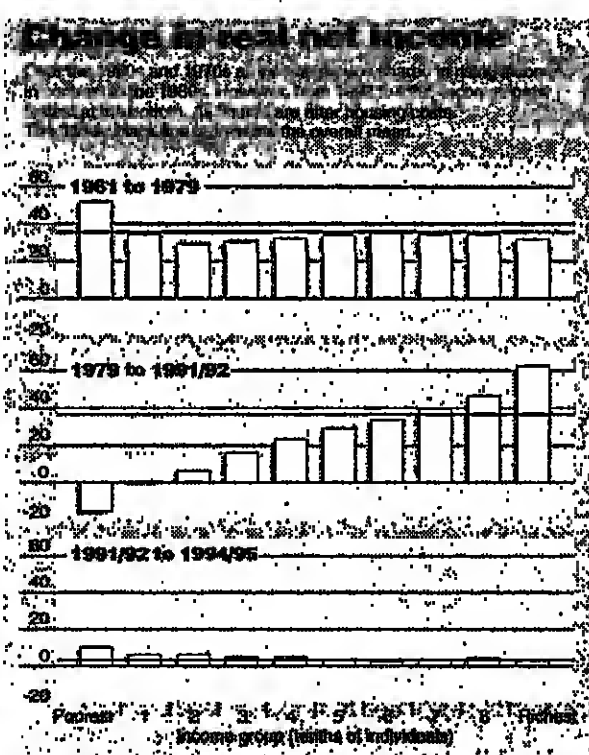
"In terms of the numbers living with low incomes relative to the average, this effect could swamp all of the positive effects of the other initiatives."

"In some sense, what we may see is a race between the positive effects of measures to increase incomes from work at the bottom, including lower unemployment, and the negative effects of falling relative incomes for those remaining largely dependent on benefits."

The report throws into stark relief how the social effects of the 1980s and 1990s, and again after 1992, the poorest groups fared best. The reversion to this pattern under Mr Major is attributed to tax changes and the fact that economic growth fed into falling unemployment rather than higher real earnings.

But the gap between rich and poor which opened in the 1980s had so far narrowed only marginally. "Even if we continue that rate of progress, it will take more than a decade to get back to where we were in the 1970s."

Moreover, a resumption of rapid growth in real earnings would set back even the slight progress that had been made unless benefits were raised by more than prices. The report was written by



for the Budget, which included an extra increase in benefit rates for families with young children. Ministers have also promised future real increases in benefits for severely disabled people. But the phasing-out of benefit premiums for lone parents

is hitting one of the biggest groups of people relying on social security.

Sir Peter Barclay, the foundation's chairman, said it was vital that the Government took advantage of the "breathing space" created by the halt in the growth of inequality. Ministers were acting on many of the original inquiry's recommendations, particularly in terms of helping working families.

"But it remains to be seen whether the Government will follow through with other initiatives to help other low-income groups, including pensioners," Sir Peter said.

Professor Hills, who is head of the LSE's centre for analysis of social exclusion, is calling on the Government to set explicit targets for tackling poverty in addition to the 32 indicators proposed in last week's welfare reform green paper. "Given that so much of the emphasis of government policy is towards the reduction of poverty, it would be useful if the Government was to nail its colours to the mast and set itself some kind of target."

The foundation has commissioned the New Policy Institute to develop a model poverty audit. A report is due in the autumn.

Income and Wealth - The Latest Evidence: JRF, The Harrogate, 40 Years On, York YOS GLP, £13.85.

Invalid number chosen on air in debut BBC show

Lottery farce over scratchcard error

Sarah Hall

IT WAS just the kind of balls up the BBC did not need. And it made winning the lottery even more of a lottery.

The corporation's controversial National Lottery scratchcard show degenerated into farce at its debut on Saturday night, when it turned out an invalid number had been drawn because an incomplete set of balls had been used.

More copper-bottomed than British Rail's wrong kind of leaves, a set of balls numbered from 21 to 40, instead of from 21 to 50, was hand loaded into machine number three.

Numerous checks and balances proved inadequate, and even the show's auditors, from Price Waterhouse, failed to notice that the machine had only 19 instead of 29 balls. The draw was to provide the third of a set of four numbers.

Smith, the Culture Secretary who demanded a BBC inquiry into the programme.

Yesterday, the corporation

The four drawn, and televised, were 49, 11, 35, 55. But when it was realised that 35 was invalid, the number was redrawn after the show, giving 49, 11, 31, 55. Camelot, the lottery operator, blaming "first night nerves", pledged to honour both combinations at the cost of tens of thousands of pounds extra, to be paid for out of Camelot profits rather than the prize fund.

Ofco, the lottery watchdog, has begun an investigation into the incident, which was also embarrassing for the BBC. The corporation has been accused of breaching its charter by appearing to endorse a commercial product, since a scratchcard has to be bought to either appear as a contestant on the programme, the National Lottery Big Ticket Show, or to play at home.

The BBC replied a fortnight ago by banning its name from publicity for the card, a move that failed to silence Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary who demanded a BBC inquiry into the programme.

Yesterday, the corporation

insisted the draw was the responsibility of Camelot and Ofco - in contradiction to its earlier claim of "complete control" over the programme. It added that the error was unfortunate, but it stood by the programme, hosted by Anthea Turner and Patrick Kielty. "We absolutely stand by it. It's a fantastic piece of entertainment and we have absolutely no regrets," said a spokeswoman.

Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Commons culture select committee, said the BBC could not disclaim responsibility. "They can't have it both ways. They can't say they're not promoting Camelot and then say it's (Camelot's) responsibility. It's just not compatible." He called on the corporation to break the connection. "If the BBC will persist in doing this kind of thing, they must be prepared for things going awry in this way."

There was one winning ticket in the normal lottery draw for a jackpot of £7.2 million. Numbers were 11, 13, 23, 29, 37, bonus ball 8.

Legal threat to Hague's Tory party reforms

New Conservative constitution vulnerable, say pro-democracy activists. Michael White reports

WILLIAM Hague's new Conservative Party constitution is vulnerable to legal challenge once his Fresh Future reforms begin to bite on grassroots activists, the Tory leadership was warned last night.

When 1,500 supporters met for their spring council in Harrogate, Mr Hague won overwhelming endorsement for his declared determination to unite his party behind tough, Thatcherite leadership.

"That is what I am paid to do, what I was elected to do. I am going to lead," he told them on Saturday, after pledging a startlingly ambitious goal of doubling the 300,000-strong party membership in two years, with half the targeted new members younger than himself.

The 37-year-old leader won applause for his invocation of One Nation Toryism to bind up the wounds after their election massacre - despite his refusal to abandon one of his most divisive policy issues, his "hot for 10 years" policy on the European single currency. Mr Hague wants to get away from narrow economic issues.

He made a plea for a broadly based party, what Ronald Reagan called "Big Tent Republicanism" and warned that "I have no interest in leading a bunch of Blue Tories, trotting into the headlines."

He contrasted his party's return to first principles in the wake of defeat with New Labour's "suppression" of its own and said Labour was now led "by men who lack even the courage of other people's convictions... people unable to follow their own instinct unless their instinct is following the crowd."

But a shadow was left over Mr Hague's restructuring of his party. Warnings were given by veteran "pro-democracy" Tory activists in Saturday's secret session that the new constitution would not only prove authoritarian in practice, but open to legal attack by future dissidents.

After a debate in the Charter Movement and the Conservative Democratic Movement won 25 per cent of the vote in Harrogate for an amendment which would have postponed formal adoption of the 130-year-old Conservative National Union until their annual conference in October.

Crucially, it would also have allowed more time to debate the implications of the new constitution.

In a ballot of 300,000 party members, the Harrogate session heard that 110,165 voted for Mr Hague's reform package, including a summary of the new constitution and a mass franchise for picking future leaders. Just 4,425 members voted against.

Mr Hague called it a victory for "the most radical reforms in our party's history."

But critics like Eric Chalker and Michael Norm-

ington argued that the constitution would prove to be a top-down system, "a mixture of Blairism and Asda," a reference to Archie Norman MP, the Asda supermarket chief turned key Hague aide.

Like Tony Blair, Mr Hague was appealing over the heads of party activists to ordinary members, they told the Harrogate activists, and gaining more power for himself.

The critics, who conceded they had been given a fair hearing, also said that, on such a low turnout, a future legal action - which some dissidents have already threatened - would stand a high chance of persuading a judge that the 75-page constitution had never been properly authorised. Labour's plans to have political parties registered with an electoral commission, as part of its drive against abuse, could also add to Tory problems.

Mr Chalker said last night: "If they wanted to make mischief for us in the way they frame the legislation, they could." Party officials say they are satisfied their legal advice is sound.

After eight months of Hague's changes "reform fatigue" won the day.

What both sides described as the "let's get on with it" Labour school of thought, advanced by the party chairman, Lord Parkinson, and Robin Hodgson, chairman of the National Union, prevailed.

In his speech Mr Hague implicitly criticised John Major's failure to assert himself over warring factions and promised to do so on the European issue what Margaret Thatcher had done in standing up to the unions in the early 1980s.

Minister faces security bungle challenge

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

THE multi-millionaire minister is facing court action this week for bungling the privatisation of the security staff who guard the Treasury - including his own office.

Lawyers are being called in today by the Public and Commercial Services Union to prepare an injunction to halt the transfer of the Treasury's security staff to Group 4 Security.

curitas on the grounds that the minister has broken European Union and government regulations.

Officials for the Paymaster General have admitted the mistake to the unions and will now have the embarrassing problem of renegotiating the contract after Group 4 takes over on Wednesday. The bill to taxpayers will be hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Mr Robinson has already been embroiled in a row over his £12.5 million tax free offshore trust which, despite a

budget clampdown on tax loopholes, is not liable to tax.

The blunder was discovered this month when the security staff, who earn between £15,000 and £22,000 a year to protect Gordon Brown's Budget secrets found their jobs advertised in the trade press at just £14,000.

It then emerged that Mr Robinson's office had signed a contract with Group 4 for about 500,000 without protecting staff pensions, wages, overtime rates, holidays, sick leave and shift systems.

As a result, the 32 security staff face paying for their pensions and working 12-hour shifts without overtime pay. Some parts of the Treasury will no longer be protected, but rely on surveillance by se-

curity cameras. Two other bids - one from Reliance Security and another from the government agency, the Security and Facilities Executive - would have protected staff rights, but at a cost nearer £1.5 million. They were rejected.

Mr Robinson, brought in by Tony Blair for his business and management expertise, has admitted that the contract will have to be renegotiated to protect staff, but he has refused to put it out to tender again to the failed bidders, a normal requirement.

Whitehall sources say he was warned by Peter Kilfoyle, public services minister, that he had made a mistake, but "pulled rank on Peter and told him he was in charge."

Barry Reamsbottom, joint general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union, said yesterday: "This is an appalling abuse of the Government's own market testing regulations. We will not see our members' jobs and livelihoods threatened by a cavalier disregard of the rules and natural justice. We are talking with our lawyers to serve an injunction to stop the transfer."

The union has written to Mr Robinson demanding a three-month delay, but a Treasury spokeswoman said: "The deal goes ahead as planned on April 1 with Group 4 Security. We cannot comment on the details of the deal because of commercial confidentiality."

Arts plan for medical student training

Dhanya Kahlil

MEDICAL students and junior doctors could find themselves studying the arts as part of their professional education under guidelines to improve the National Health Service.

The move follows research by the Nuffield Trust which showed that studying the arts helped students develop a more compassionate understanding of the individual and became more "rounded" people themselves.

University medical schools will be urged to incorporate humanities subjects - such as philosophy, literature and even theology - on the curriculum by the millennium to enable doctors to qualify with BA degrees.

Secondary schools will also be pressed to encourage students to opt for a mix of science and arts subjects at A level, which should not be considered a bar to securing a place at medical school.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, is among a group of 40 experts behind the drive to promote the role of the arts in medicine.

The group will oversee the implementation of the changes and has already approached educational institutions.

The trust says in a report, *The Role of Humanities in*

medicine: "If doctors are to resist gathering pressures that threaten to reduce their perceived role to that of technicians, they must receive a more liberal education, one that helps to bridge a gulf between science and the arts."

John Wynn, secretary of the trust, will meet the Health Minister, Baroness Jay, this week to discuss a timetable for introducing the measures into the curriculum. Frank Harris, Dean of Medicine at the University of Leicester Medical School and a member of the General Medical Council education committee, which has backed the initiative, said: "I need no persuading that there is a role for humanities in medical education."

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Pub singers inspired Holst's Somerset Rhapsody

Clare Longridge

THE source of Gustav Holst's A Somerset Rhapsody has been traced to three folk singers in a Mendips pub.

A friend of the composer and collector of traditional songs, Cecil Sharp, heard a performance by three country folk in a Mendips pub at the turn of the century and passed on the melodies to Holst.

The performers were farmer William King, Mrs Lock from the village of Muchelney Ham, and Mrs Glover, of Hush Episcopi, none of them places traditionally linked with musical excellence. The pub, the Castle of Comfort, near Cheddar, was not exactly on the musical map either.

A forthcoming documentary will reveal that during a visit to the pub on April 15, 1904 Sharp saw Mr King sing a booming rendition of The Shepherd's Song. He was so struck by the performance that he later mentioned it to Holst. He also told him about Mrs Lock's song, High Germany, and a haunting rendition of The True Lover's Farewell, performed by Mrs Glover on Christmas Eve, 1904.

Reworked by the composer, the songs became part of one of his best-loved pieces. A Somerset Rhapsody was given a standing ovation at its first public performance at the Pump Rooms in Bath, in 1906.

David Parker, who directed the documentary, said: "It's a story that has never been told. It's like a piece of secret history. This piece really captures the folk music culture."

Mr Parker portrays Cecil Sharp as a pioneer of modern sampling techniques. "He toured the Somerset villages and collected a vast number of songs from older people. Even at the turn of the century, many of these were being lost. He discovered a whole bank of music that... could be used in orchestral pieces."

'Thinking on a broader, more human level has helped in my diagnosis'

MARK Harris (right), aged 22, is a third-year undergraduate at the University of Bristol Medical School.

During his first year he feels he benefited greatly from a compulsory course entitled society and medicine, which covered a wide range of subjects from social stigmas to the psychological implications of

imparting bad news to the patient.

He said: "It is essential to be able to see beyond the patient into their social environment, to put the case into context and to understand there can be lots of issues, besides medical ones, when managing a patient's care."

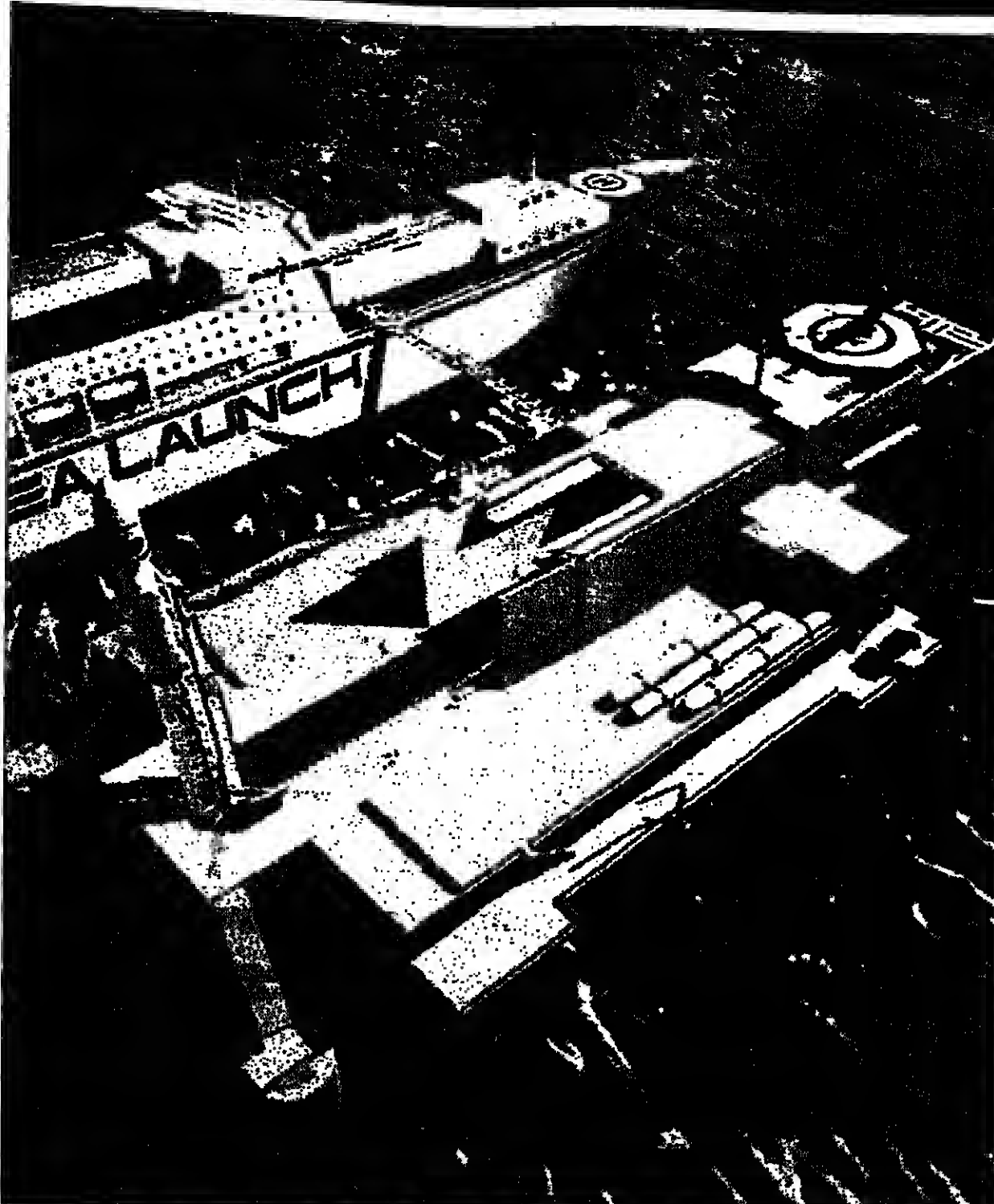
This year he had also gained much from his time spent working in arts, music and dance therapies with mental health patients.

"The move to bring humanities into the curriculum is a slow process but is gradually filtering down. Thinking about issues on a broader, more human level has helped in my diagnosis."



0181 680 9966

Consortium joins space race



An artist's impression of the Sea Launch command ship alongside the oil rig launch pad on the Equator in the Pacific

Satellite launch pad will float in Pacific

Tim Radford
on project that profits by firing rockets from rig on Equator

IN OCTOBER the first satellite launched from a pad in the open ocean is due to arrive in its orbit, 22,000 miles out in space.

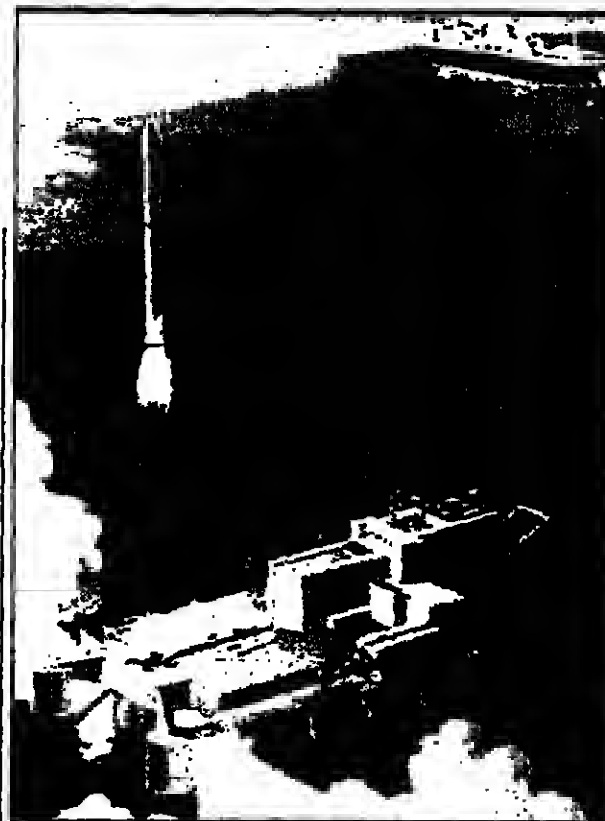
Sea Launch, a once-unimaginable business consortium from Norway, Russia, the United States and the Ukraine, is poised to challenge Nasa at Cape Canaveral, the Europeans in French Guiana, and the Russians at Baikonur by building a space base on a converted oil rig that will float in the Pacific on the Equator, 1,400 miles south-east of Hawaii.

Satellites mounted on Ukrainian Zenit rockets with extra stages from the Russian Energia group will be placed on the rig, called Odyssey, at Long Beach in California. The crew will take the rig to the launch point, stabilise the platform, and move to a Glasgow-built command ship to fire the payload into the highest orbit achieved by a satellite to date.

They will then pick up the spent booster stages before getting back on the rig and returning to California to pick up another launcher and satellite.

The operation will, the partners hope, work out cheaper than systems set up by the US or the USSR during the Cold War, or by Europe's more recent partnership.

The advantage of the sea



Blast off: A rocket heads 22,000 miles into space

is that it allows a launch on the Equator, which, when compared with the Poles, gives the rocket a "free" 1,000 miles an hour, or half kilometre a second, due to the spin of the Earth, which means a saving in fuel.

Paul Murdin, of the British National Space Centre, said: "What is more, at the equator all of this extra half a kilometre a second is in the right direction: you don't get launched at an angle, you get launched

right into an equatorial orbit, which is right for commercial uses of space.

"The more fuel you have to take up, the smaller the satellite you can launch. So being on the Equator is very important."

Kourou, Europe's launch pad in French Guiana, has the edge over Nasa at Cape Canaveral because it is nearer the Equator. In theory a floating launch pad on the Equator is best of all.

There is another advantage: rockets are loaded with highly explosive and toxic fuel, and have to be launched over the sea, preferably from a thinly populated hinterland.

"Launching rockets is a risky business," said Dr Murdin. "Rocket fuel contains terrible things, and you don't want them falling on people. You've really got to be careful to launch over the sea: a place you can control, and clear of anything except dolphins."

Boeing, the US partner in Sea Launch, claims it will put five tons of satellite into a geostationary orbit — a distance so far away from Earth that the orbit keeps precise pace with that of Earth, and hence the satellite is always over the same spot, and perfectly placed for television relay and telecommunications.

Space is now a huge business (in Britain, it employs more than 6,000 people and is worth £750 million a year) growing at 15 to 20 per cent a year. In the next eight years, launchers will put 234 communications satellites worth more than £20 billion into high orbit.

The US, which dominated the launch business in the last decade, now has only 30 per cent of the market. The European Space Agency, in which Britain is a partner, now has 50 per cent, but Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, India, Indonesia and Australia all plan launch programmes. In the US, the states of Alaska, Nevada, New Mexico, Virginia and California are building spaceports to compete with Canaveral.

But Sea Launch is the first off-shore co-operative: it already has 18 launch orders, and the first will be fired in October.

Labour pressed on No 10 fundraising

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

CONSERVATIVES yesterday pressed Labour to explain a proposal for the party to use invitations to Downing Street to help in its fundraising.

A confidential paper drawn up 10 months ago by the head of Labour's fundraising unit proposed to tempt major donors to contribute with visits to No 10 and private meetings with Tony Blair. More than £15 million could be raised by 2002, the paper suggests.

Senior ministers and party officials dismissed the paper: it had been circulated shortly after the election last May as an early draft drawn up by a junior official, and swiftly spiked before getting to ministers.

David Heathcote Amory, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said using No 10 as a "fund-raising venue" would have breached Labour's ministerial code, published last July. The code states: "It is wrong in principle for ministers to use for party or constituency work facilities provided at government expense."

He called on Mr Blair to release a full list of meetings

he had had with businessmen at No 10 or other official venues, and pledged to pursue Labour over whether matters discussed at the meetings had a subsequent impact on policy decisions. He said: "Cash for access cast a shadow over the reputation and standing of the Prime Minister's Office ... The Prime Minister must answer for the actions of his party."

The leaked paper, Post-Election Strategy for High Value Donors, was written by Amanda Delew, head of Labour's high value fundraising unit. It states that in 12 months to April 1997, the unit raised £11.3 million from individuals giving more than £5,000 each, and suggests it can confidently expect a further £15.5 million between May 1997 and 2002.

The paper underlines that sustaining success relies at least in part on continuing flattery of donors. It says: "Major donors expect to be invited to No 10; if this cannot take place then income levels may be affected."

Mr Blair needed to play a role in the programme by continuing to hold private meetings with "some of the more interesting supporters wherever possible," the document said, making clear that "these meetings should never

address the subject of money."

Senior Labour officials last night said they were unworried by the leak. The paper had only a small circulation, and was an "inappropriate, naive document written as though we were still in opposition", which had immediately been dropped once seen by senior staff, one official said. It had "never gone near ministers".

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, yesterday played down the significance of the paper. He told BBC TV's On The Record programme: "This was a paper that was prepared by a middle ranking official as a proposal."

"The moment it got anywhere near senior officials they said this is completely inappropriate, not something that any party — any government — should do. It was spiked and no more was heard of it."

A Labour Party spokesman rejected Mr Heathcote Amory's call for an investigation. "He is just making himself look stupid."

"How can there be any kind of government inquiry into a 10-month-old draft document that was rejected by middle ranking officials inside the party and never saw the light of day?"

Party rebellion over axed Hull councillor

Peter Hetherington

LABOUR is facing a rebellion by senior officers in John Prescott's Hull East constituency, over the party's decision to prevent a city councillor from standing in local elections in May.

Ten officers, including the local party chairman, have sent the national executive the "strongest possible protest" over a decision to exclude John Black from the poll.

They complain of a "travesty of justice" and question the party's disciplinary procedures.

Mr Black, a councillor for 27 years and a friend of Mr Prescott, was suspended from

the council's Labour group in October.

Allies say he had been assured by the party hierarchy that his future as a councillor depended on the outcome of an investigation into the £45,000 spent on hospitality during his year as Lord Mayor. Two weeks ago the Crown Prosecution Service decided to take no action against him, and the matter was referred to the District Auditor. But the suspension was not lifted.

In October Mr Black quit a number of posts, after an inquiry by Labour's national executive found a "combination ... and accumulation of ... positions raised serious questions about the potential

for the misuse of power."

At the same time, Hull District Labour Party was also suspended. However, Mr Black remained vice-chairman of North Hull Housing Action Trust.

Last weekend, the Yorkshire Regional Labour Party ruled that Mr Black could not stand in local elections on May 7. A party spokesman said they considered him "unavailable".

Mr Black appealed to the national executive, which upheld the region's decision, saying "he failed to show sensitivity to the possible conflicts of interest there may be and the concentration of political power that we feel there has been in Hull".

You knew it was all over for Deirdre when the purple-breasted boudier began his speech for the defence: "Her life has been nondescript, ordinary, not the stuff of dreams ..." Not only was this blister an offence to the eyeball, he had obviously never watched *Coronation Street*.
Nancy Banks-Smith's campaign to free Deirdre

Arts, G2 page 7

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Indians flee Amazon fires

Alex Bellos
in Rio de Janeiro

YANOMAMI Indians have begun to flee their villages as the fires raging in the northern Amazon burn deeper into their reservation.

More than 20 Indians living in the settlement closest to the fires have left their homes, said Alan Sussman, of Brazil's National Indian Foundation (Funai).

"There was so much smoke there that it was unbearable. The Indians decided to move further into the reservation," he said.

He added that the area affected — Ajarani — was sparsely populated and that

no other settlements were immediately threatened.

However, Brazilian newspaper reports say that many of the 500 Indians living in the village of Babo Mucal are going hungry because smoke from the fires has frightened away the animals they hunt.

About 20,000 Yanomami Indians live in a reservation the size of Portugal which spreads from Brazil's northernmost state, Roraima, into Venezuela. They are the world's largest primitive tribe.

The fires, which have been burning for three months, are the worst in the history of the northern Amazon.

They have so far destroyed 12,000 square miles of savannah, 1,600 of secondary rainforest and 700 of primary

rainforest — an area larger than Belgium.

A team of specialists from the United Nations Environment Programme was due to arrive yesterday to measure the extent of the damage.

The international effort to

The group, led by experts from Switzerland, Mexico and Kenya, was expected to meet government officials in Brasília today before heading to Roraima later in the week.

The international effort to

'Everything is black with smoke here. Many trees are dying. All the undergrowth is dead.'

more than four months after the UN's initial offer to send a delegation. Brazil only accepted the offer last week, upsetting its armed forces, which view the Amazon as a national security issue and are sensitive to outside interference.

combat the fire comprises more than 1,300 men, including more than 100 from Venezuela and over 100 military airborne firefighters from Argentina. More than 100 have been airlifted into the Yanomami reservation to fight the fires there.

The state government says fires are now under control in the region of Apian, 75 miles from the state capital, Boa Vista, which has been the worst hit by the blaze. But strong winds last week have spread fires south.

Localised fires are also appearing further north, and have invaded the island ecological station of Maracá, which contains examples of every known plant and animal species in the region.

"Everything is black with smoke here. Many trees are dying. All the undergrowth is dead," said a spokeswoman from the station. "It will be a terrible loss for humanity if something happens to the station."

The fires were started by subsistence farmers burning

their land to make it more fertile, and aggravated by an El Niño-induced drought. It has not rained since last year and forecasters are not predicting rain until the end of next month.

Philippine officials said yesterday that they would ask other countries to lend fire-fighting planes to help put out a fire destroying virgin forests in the western province of Palawan.

The fires have ravaged more than 12,000 acres near two remote mountain towns close to the southern tip of Palawan Island, said the province's administrator, Federico Virgo. He added that there were no local water sources and villagers were trying to contain the flames with fire breaks. — *AP, Manila*

News in brief

Ex-PM's election bid baffles Russian elite

FRANCIS run-reading was going on in dachas and saunas in and around the Russian capital yesterday as the country's political elite tried to work out what lay behind Viktor Chernomyrdin's announcement on Saturday that he would run for president in 2000. Mr Chernomyrdin was sacked as prime minister by President Boris Yeltsin a week ago.

Kremlin officials were sending out mixed signals on whether Mr Chernomyrdin had the president's backing to run as the main candidate from the "party of power" — short-handled for the loose coalition of career bureaucrats, anti-communist politicians and tycoons which has run Russia since 1991.

It seems unlikely that, with elections still two years away, Mr Yeltsin will give him unconditional backing this week. The Russian leader is thought not to have decided whether to run for a third term himself. If he chose to step aside, most political pundits believe Mr Chernomyrdin is unselectable in anything resembling a democratic contest. — *James Meek, Moscow*

US hostages face death threat

LEFT-WING Colombian rebels threatened at the weekend to kill four Americans kidnapped a week ago if they are found to have links with United States intelligence agencies. Talking to NTC television, Commander "Romana", head of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia Third Front, added: "If these people do not have anything to do with military intelligence, then we will demand a ransom for them."

The US state department says the four were on a bird-watching trip and were seized at a rebel roadblock on a main road leading east from Bogotá to the town of Villavieja. The Colombian army said 26 Colombians and an Italian were also taken as troops moved in to dislodge the rebels. Nine of the Colombians were freed on Friday. — *Reuters, Bogotá*

Saudi workers 'need inquiry'

A HUMAN rights group is urging the United Nations to investigate the mistreatment of foreign workers in Saudi Arabia.

Human Rights Watch said Saudi law left the workers — from Egypt, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen — open to abuses, including forced labour, torture, physical and sexual assault, and arrest on false charges. — *AP, Geneva*

I will be jailed, says Marcos

THE PHILIPPINE'S former first lady Imelda Marcos told a rally of supporters at the weekend that she was certain to go to jail because the supreme court had rejected her appeal against conviction for graft.

She is one of 11 people contesting the presidency in May. Under election laws, if the conviction stands she will be disqualified from running for public office.

Ms Marcos has been appealing against a decision in January by a panel of the supreme court to uphold her 12-year sentence she received in her trial in 1988. — *Reuters, Legaspi*

Left's hopes high in Ukraine

UKRAINE'S Communist Party and other left-wing movements were expected to do well in parliamentary elections yesterday, reflecting anger among the 38 million voters that they are materially worse off seven years after independence from Moscow.

Although the currency is stable and inflation is low, millions of workers wait months for their tiny salaries, the country is borrowing desperately on the international money markets to feed its budget deficit and the IMF, and lack of reforms have prompted the World Bank to halt huge loan programmes.

Also expected to do well are the pro-market nationalist movement Rukh and a Green Party, which controversially has received financial backing from commercial banks and oil companies. — *James Meek, Moscow*

Ancient Buddha statue stolen

THIEVES have stolen a priceless, 1,500-year-old stone statue of the Buddha in Beijing, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday. The 4ft 4in figure was torn from its base with crowbars last week.

Police had urged the family which has been looking after it for four generations to take better precautions after they opened their house to the public. Xinhua said. — *Reuters, Beijing*

17,000 Burundians flee

SOME 17,000 Burundians have fled intensified fighting in the past three weeks between Hutu rebels and the Tutsi-led army near the capital Bujumbura, witnesses said yesterday. Nearly 15,000 people have left their rural homes for the village of Rushubi and another 2,000 have fled to Mubherure, both in Isale commune, about 18 miles north-east of Bujumbura. — *AP, Bujumbura*

Pilgrims break air embargo

LIBYA violated the United Nations air embargo yesterday for the fourth year by sending a plane carrying 105 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, a Saudi official said.

The Libyan jet, which authorities in Tripoli called the "defiance plane", arrived at the King Abdul Aziz Airport in the Red Sea port of Jeddah at dawn and returned to the Libyan capital after refuelling, the official said. Libya has violated the embargo every year since 1994 to take pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for the hajj, which starts on April 6. — *AP, Jeddah*

More than with any other living historian, one is aware that Schama's subject matter is not merely, say, the Dutch golden age, but the human condition itself.

G2 cover story

Inquiry into SA 'coup plot'

From David Barrowford
in Cape Town

SOUTH AFRICAN military commanders appeared before a judicial tribunal at the weekend to answer questions about an intelligence report which claimed that well-known personalities, including Winnie Mandela, were plotting a coup against the government.

There was speculation in the local press that the head of the South African National Defence Force, General George Meiring, faced the sack over the report, which is widely regarded as a fabrication. The general was quoted yesterday as promising "full support" for the investigation.

The judicial commission is believed to be investigating why the intelligence report was presented to Nelson Mandela without being cross-checked against other intelligence sources, cleared by the national intelligence co-ordinating committee, or shown to the minister of defence.

The report names Gen Meiring's likely successor, Lieutenant-General Siphiwe Nyanda, as the chief plotter behind the coup and claims that a young diplomat, Robert McBride — currently in detention in Mozambique on gun-running charges — was supplying weapons.

The report is believed to have been based on allegations by a paid agent of military intelligence who was also arrested in Mozambique, seemingly after leading Mr McBride into a trap. It is suspected that the coup allegations were an attempt to destabilise the Mandela government.

Gen Meiring said at the weekend, however, that the intelligence report was submitted to the president on February 5, well before Mr McBride's arrest. The former Transkei leader, General Bantu Holomisa — who is also named as one of the coup plotters — said the report had been given to Mr Mandela on March 5 and he expressed surprise that it had taken so long for the president to act. He said he intended suing the military for implicating him in the alleged conspiracy.

Mr Mandela told BBC television that if any coup attempt were mounted, it would be quickly crushed. "There are elements which are trying to destabilise. There has been evidence of that, therefore we must not be complacent," he told David Frost. "But we are supremely confident that we are in total control. Any attempt, if made, will be blotted out quickly and decisively."



Soldiers clear rubbish from Cuba's blackened Matanzas bay after an oil spill last week. A tanker collided with another ship PHOTOGRAPH: ADALBERTO ROQUE

Grizzly campaign risks legal mauling

Paul Brown on the loggers' battle with those trying to save Canada's bear haven

EIGHTEEN Greenpeace protesters go on trial in Vancouver today for criminal contempt, after they defied court orders preventing them from interfering with logging companies driving roads into the rainforest of British Columbia, which is home to endangered bears.

In an increasingly bitter battle with the logging companies and the state authorities, the environmental group is using its international muscle to try to cut off markets for the timber in an attempt to stop the destruction.

Last week in Glasgow four volunteers chained themselves to a timber ship, the Saga Wind, to try to prevent it from unloading. B&Q, Sainsbury's Ho-

tourism in the forest are also now bringing in money.

Trees up to 1,000 years old are cut down for wood pulp and each is worth as much as \$25,000. The pulp is used for many purposes, including the manufacture of vegetarian sausages.

Tzephora Berman, Greenpeace Canada's forest cam-

paigner, said: "We feel if we cannot stop a highly developed G7 country like Canada destroying its rainforest what hope have we got of saving forests in Brazil or Malaysia."

Ms Berman added: "Destroying a natural resource which is more valuable standing as a mecca for tourists and sports fisher-

men seems to be so shortsighted."

She said the activists in court had defied a court order in July by sitting in front of bulldozers cutting a road into the forest. They were likely to spend up to two months in prison during the trial.

The rainforest's native people are facing a trial in May when they will argue that they cannot be charged with trespass on their own territory.

One company, Western Forest Products, began blasting a road last week to reach an area called Ingram. A spokeswoman, Carol Friend, said the area was the size of Belgium but less than half of it could be commercially logged because of the steep terrain. She said Western was planning to exploit only part of that. Some trees would be removed by helicopter to avoid increasing the damage by making roads.



The endangered grizzly is one of the species of bear living in British Columbia's shrinking rainforest

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US doubts on war crimes court

Mark Tran in New York

A THREAT by Senator Jesse Helms, the maverick Republican from North Carolina, to block Senate ratification of a permanent war crimes tribunal unless the United States wins veto power over the panel, has cast a pall over efforts to create a strong international criminal court.

The final preparatory meeting winds up this week before delegates meet in Rome in the summer to sign a treaty that will create a court where war criminals like Pol Pot could be brought to justice. The behind-the-scenes bargaining began in earnest at this final session at the United Nations in New York, but the delegates received a jolt from the intransigent Mr Helms.

His message to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was a brutal reminder that even if delegates from more than 100 countries can overcome their significant differences on such a court, the effort could founder in a US Senate suspicious of any organ that might encroach on US sovereignty.

In his letter last week, Mr Helms expressed his alarm at the possibility that an international court would have jurisdiction over an American citizen "even over the express objection of the United States government". If American negotiators conclude a treaty establishing such a court without a clear US veto, Mr Helms warned, it will be "dead on arrival" at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which Mr Helms is chairman.

Ironically, the American delegation has been doing its

utmost to limit the independence and effectiveness of the court. True, it appears ready to accept the "Singapore compromise", whereby the court can proceed with cases unless the UN Security Council blocks them. In exchange, however, the US has put forward ideas restricting the scope of the court.

The US, for instance, wants the court prosecutor to make public any decision to start an investigation of a suspect. Following such an announcement, the court would defer to a state should it decide to hold its own investigation.

According to human rights groups these proposals would severely damage the court.

"If the court prosecutor had to give public notice of an investigation you can imagine that a suspect will be getting rid of his blood-soaked

clothes and the evidence pretty quickly," said Richard Dicker of Human Rights Watch, who also argued that American proposals on court deferral to state investigations is more stringent than necessary.

While the US has been criticised for its stance, Britain has won plaudits for pushing for a strong court. In this final round Britain has joined the so-called "like-minded" group that includes Nordic countries and European states, which favour an effective and independent court.

Mr Helms's blunt message is likely to fuel resentment among UN members about the high-handed US attitude towards international co-operation while owing \$1.3 billion (\$770 million) in outstanding dues to the UN.

THE AFRICA President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda

President Museveni will deliver a lecture as part of the Africa Centre's Managing Contemporary Africa Lecture Series on - **Good Governance in Africa: The Ugandan Experience** - Monday 6th April 1998 at 16.00 hrs, at the Africa Centre, Covent Garden, 38 King Street, London WC2E 8JT.

Contact: Tel: 0171 836 1973, Fax: 0171 836 1975, e-mail: africacentre@compag.org to arrange purchase of tickets - £15.

There will also be a meeting with the members of Africa Centre Business Forum. Please contact above numbers for further details.

0171 417 4375

France rediscovers Blanchard



Master of erotic art celebrated

Paul Webster in Rennes

An exhibition by the Paris-born painter Jacques Blanchard, which has opened in the Breton capital's fine arts museum, is part of a national policy to restore popular interest in neglected French early 17th century painting.

Art historian Jacques Thuillier, who has written an account of Blanchard's life, recalled at the opening that

an exhibition he staged 40 years ago of early 17th century artists was greeted with derision by critics who felt that the paintings compared badly to Italian masters.

"The rediscovery of the Lorraine artist Georges de la Tour has done a lot to encourage a review of the value of work by his contemporaries," he said. "I believe we have another extraordinary person in Blanchard who has been badly treated by history."



Danaë (above) by Jacques Blanchard, one of his sumptuous allegories now on display at an exhibition in Rennes and, left, a self-portrait by the early 17th century French artist

Blanchard lived from 1600 to 1638 and was apprenticed as a painter from the age of 13. Later he went to Lyon and Venice where he developed techniques used in sumptuous allegories dominated by voluptuous nudes. But this was also the period of reli-

gious wars and, despite church criticism of his erotic subjects, he was commissioned with many other painters of the period to paint what amounted to Catholic propaganda — huge altar pieces devoted to the cult of the Virgin Mary.

Mr Thuillier said that the flood of religious subjects partly explained why this period was often considered boring and was rapidly eclipsed by a fascination for Raphael. Blanchard distinguished himself from other painters by "his hymns to

eternal woman", with emphasis on Charity, the historian said.

The only authenticated Blanchard in England, the surviving half of one of the Charity series, has been lent by the Courtauld Institute, joining 44 other works from

Holland, Hungary, the United States and several French museums. It is the first time that all known Blanchard paintings have been displayed together.

Only 13 paintings were signed by the artist; many anonymous works in French

churches could eventually be attributed to him. Rennes was chosen for the exhibition, which runs until June 8, because it owns an imposing painting, The Flagellation Of Christ.

Website access is: www.mysale/04/isaure

Diverse Belgians unite to head off separatism

Stephen Bates in Brussels

A HIGHLY unusual coalition of Belgium's great and good has declared its mission to save the country as a federal state.

The group, called B Plus, includes senior members of the country's divided language groups. It brings together Walloon (French-speaking) businessmen from the south, from the big Belgian banks and Solvay, the giant chemicals company, artists and writers from the Flemish (Dutch-speaking) north and figures from the German-speaking part of eastern Belgium.

They believe their initiative has come not a moment too soon. In the wake of several national administrative and criminal scandals over the past two years — such as the paedophile ring in Walonia — talk of splitting the state has revived as parties begin gearing up for next year's general election.

"We believe Belgium must have a future for the sake of democracy," said Mark Dufrulle, a public affairs consultant who is managing director of B Plus. "If people can-

not live together here, what future is there for Europe?"

The group plans to promote the cause of Belgium as a unified state, albeit one which has six parliaments to cater for different language groups and levels of government.

The launch has been sharpened by recent disagreements between Flemish and French speakers centred on Brussels. One was a row over the balance of recruitment to the fire service. Although Brussels is 85 per cent francophone, it is in the Flemish region and Flemings have traditionally been given up to 30 per cent of public sector jobs in the capital. Attempts to change this ended in deadlock until politicians agreed on a precise recruiting balance. In future 29.48 per cent of Brussels firemen will be Flemish.

Then there is the Flemish government's order to the six local authorities around the fringe of Brussels, which traditionally have conducted business bilingually, to issue documents in Dutch only in future. Francophones would have to apply on a form each time they wanted to receive a document in French.

Mainstream Flemish politi-

cians and businessmen have been suggesting that they might be better off in a separate state. Commenting on calls for separatism, De Standaard, the prominent Flemish newspaper, asked: "What surplus value can the cracked Belgian connection still offer us?" It quoted Andre Deunys, moderate Liberal leader in the Flemish regional parliament, as saying: "Flanders cannot permit itself to function for another five years in the same way as today, remaining dependent on a Walonia that thinks differently on so many subjects."

Pressure for a split is all coming from the Flemish, who have been for most of Belgium's 160-year history dependent on the wealth of the industrial south, now finding themselves economically more prosperous and resentful of having to support the French-speaking workforce of declining heavy industries.

The Flemish press did not report the launch of B Plus. "We know we have an uphill struggle in Flanders," said Mr Dufrulle, who is Flemish. "We are just going to have to stage events which will force ourselves on their attention."

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Abortions urged for athletes

Doris Stanton in Berlin

EAST GERMAN athletes were ordered to have abortions because, it was feared, their use of anabolic steroids could have led to mutant offspring, a report in Der Spiegel claims today.

The magazine says police in Berlin and the eastern state of Thuringia are using evidence from the Stasi secret police's files to investigate former sports officials, doctors and trainers.

Four former East German trainers and two sports doctors are currently on trial in Berlin for their part in the systematic doping of young swimmers. The defendants, the first to be tried after an investigation into the use of steroids by state swimmers, are accused of causing actual bodily harm between 1974 and 1989 to 19 female swimmers while they were still children or adolescents.

The latest allegations are based on reports given to the Stasi by Manfred Köppner, the former head of East Germany's sport

medicine service. He recommended that athletes who became pregnant while on the steroids should be advised "to terminate their pregnancy". According to a dossier in the Stasi headquarters in Leipzig, doctors feared the steroids might cause a female embryo to mutate into "a strongly masculine type".

Der Spiegel says detectives are also investigating whether some of the athletes put on steroids gave birth to handicapped children.

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Comment

Almaty Diary

Claudia McElroy

HAILED as Central Asia's most cosmopolitan city, Almaty's ethnic diversity has as much to do with its problems as with its potential success. The once Soviet face of Kazakhstan's "young giant capital" is continually being transformed by the influx of big business from the West, and all the trappings of capitalism that go with it. On the increase are five-star hotels, casinos and glitzy nightclubs, frequented largely by ostentatious businessmen who divide their attention equally between their mobile phones and scantily-clad "escorts". While the entrance fee to a disco exceeds the monthly wage of many Kazaks, and the promised benefits of a market economy have eluded the majority, a certain amount of resentment has already surfaced. Local pensioners last month came out in force to demonstrate against a Belgian electricity company following a hike in their heating bills.

But Almaty's real problems are much more deep-seated. With a population of about 17 million, Kazakhstan has at least 100 different ethnic groups — the legacy of almost two centuries of Tsarist and Soviet colonisation. Increasing rural migration to the cities has highlighted the festering grudges and mutual suspicions harboured by various ethnic groups — now based mostly on claims of discrimination and unfair treatment by the Kazak government — which many believe could lead to ethnic clashes, especially if the economic situation deteriorates further.

The Barakholka market, on the outskirts of Almaty, is a microcosm of the country's eclectic mix of nationalities, where the vendors are as diverse as their wares. On a freezing March morning the stallholders wait patiently for customers, speaking to strangely hushed tones. Lines of Russian women of all ages, almost hidden beneath massive woollen shawls, sit knitting camel-hair scarves and socks to sell. Next to them a group of Kazak women stand in rows of gargantuan fur coats and Cossack-style hats. In an adjacent stall sits a gold-toothed Uzbek fortune-teller, offering her services in three languages. Close by a hotch-potch of Ukrainians, Uighurs and other Chinese traders sell everything from sizzling meat sticks and frozen horse heads to platform boots and Spice Girls posters.

On the surface the market appears to be a model of integration — just as in the city there is no immediate sign of discord. "Don't be fooled," said a Russian economist student. "Many Russians are very bitter against the Kazaks. We are discriminated against — especially in jobs and education — and most skilled people grab any opportunity they can to leave the country."

RUSSIANS no longer outnumber the Kazak population as they once did, due largely to an exodus of Russians and other Slav peoples. Perceived marginalisation over cultural and educational facilities, as well as discrimination in jobs and access to local government, has also prompted the migration of substantial numbers of Ukrainians, Germans and Poles. Yet as many Kazaks acknowledge, albeit grudgingly, this loss of skilled labour has helped the economy even further.

One young Kazak businessman, browsing in the general ambivalence towards immigrants to the city — Russian farmers or Western oil magnates. "We might not particularly like who we live with, but we can't afford not to get along with them. Our economy is in such a mess that we need all the help we can get."

Pragmatism then, rather than magnanimity, may be the key to what has so far kept the lid on the boiling pot of Almaty's "cosmopolitan" spirit.

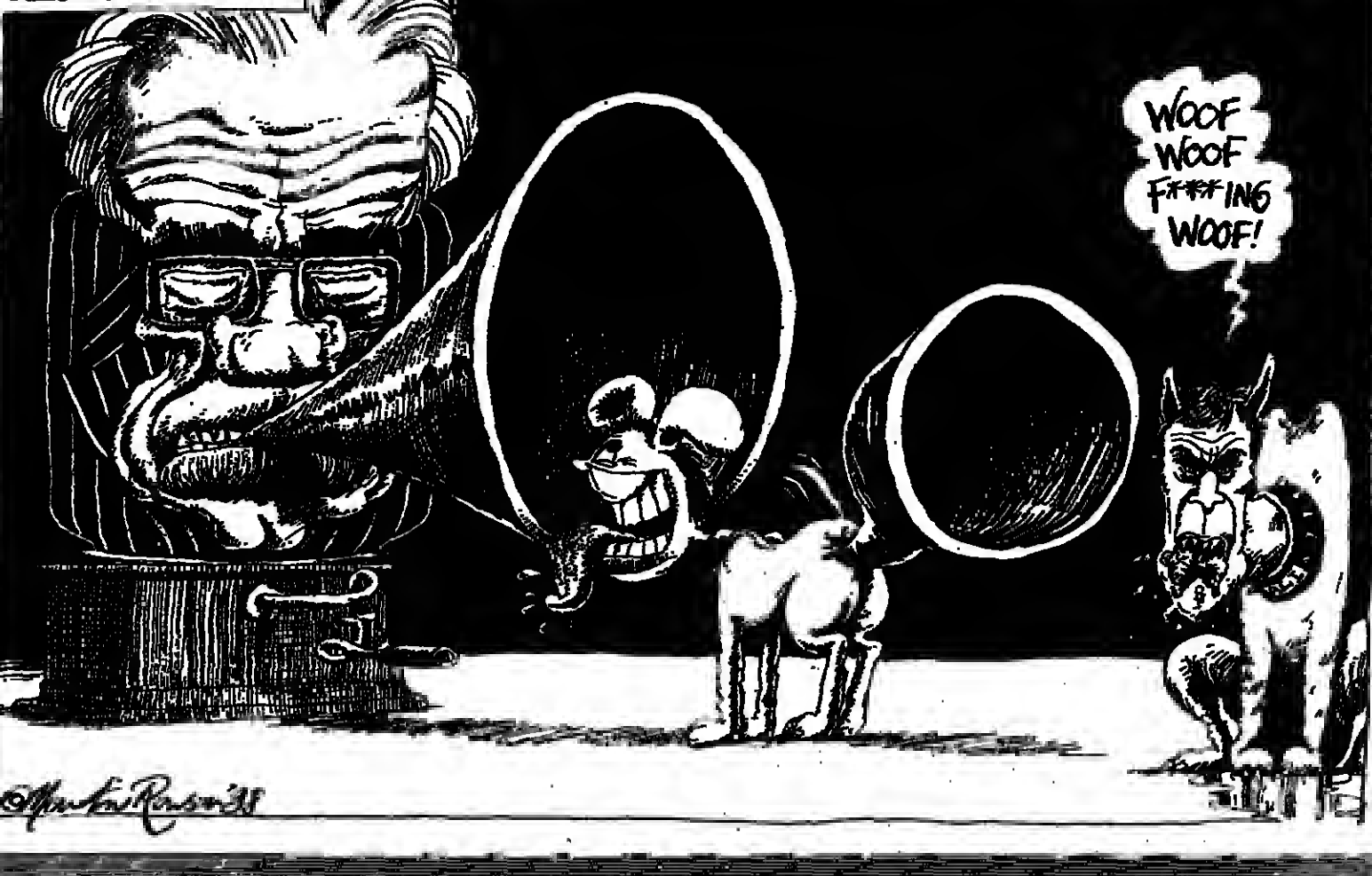
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His Master's Fierce



Sorry, we can't waste NHS cash on flower power and mumbo-jumbo

Polly Toynbee



IS THE light of enlightenment growing dim, fogged in a new cloud of unknowing? After centuries of unravelling the tentacles of superstition from the solid body of empirical proof, the line between sense and nonsense is once again becoming blurred.

Universities are bastions of scientific rationality, nothing taught but what is proven, any hypothesis put to rigorous test. Yet, onto my desk drops a notice from the University of Hertfordshire. The Faculty of Health and Human Sciences boasts it is running the first university course on the use of Bach Flower Remedies. What exactly are they?

Their manufacturer, Nelson's, maker of homeopathic remedies and aromatherapy oils, is paying for half of this course. Anna Maxwell of Nelson's explains these flower drops: "They were invented by Dr Edward Bach who believed emotions are the key to ill-health. We know that cancer is caused by stress and many disease states are caused by the pressure of modern living. His remedies offer support to the emotions." Such as? "White Chestnut is for people who have thoughts going round and round in their heads. Impatience is for the impatient. Elm is for if you feel overwhelmed."

Is there any proof? "Well, there are no formal trials. It's all a bit anecdotal, but we are about to address this." What about aromatherapy, any evidence there? "Not full-blown clinical trials. There are some small limited studies."

Everywhere complementary and alternative therapies are creeping into universities and the NHS. Exeter, Southampton and Bristol Universities are among those that have depart-

ments of complementary medicine. The Clinical Senior Research Fellow at Southampton also runs a sizeable private practice in complementary therapies. Doctors find growing patient demand one study suggested 40 per cent of GPs were referring patients to complementary remedies. Prince Charles has instituted a Foundation of Integrated Medicine, to reconcile orthodox and unorthodox therapies. Yet the very terms "complementary" or "alternative" imply treatments beyond the normal rules of proof, part magic, part mystery. After all, if someone discovers something that works, why call it "alternative"?

Recently Lameth, Lewisham and Southwark Health Authority took a bold stand — and caused an uproar. They discovered their doctors spent £230,000 a year — "a hell of a lot of new hips" — on alternative therapies. After reviewing the research evidence, and under heavy financial pressure, they struck homeopathy and acupuncture off to howls of protest. Now a few other health authorities have done likewise. (They kept osteopathy and chiropractic, as research proved it works in the first six weeks of acute back pain, but not for chronic conditions.)

Dr Caroline Mawer reviewed the research for the health authority. "The evidence for homeopathy just isn't there, not in the most respected journals. Some of it is very slender. For instance, they claim it helps diarrhoea in children, but the research was on a tiny group of children in Nicaragua and it only improved their rate of recovery by less than half an hour." Homeopathic doctors point to an

analysis in the *Lancet* of various disparate trials, which seemed to show homeopathy was better than a placebo. But Dr Mawer demolished it — mainly over an error they made in "publication bias": the well-known problem that researchers only publish the trials that show a positive result while no one bothers to publish hundreds more studies that show no effect.

What of patients who say they feel better? "Giving patients a lot of attention, treating them holistically, does make a difference — but I would like all our doctors to do that anyway," Dr Mawer says. She found GPs were using alternative referrals to get rid of "heart-sink" patients. "But there are better ways to treat psychological problems that cause physical sickness." Anyway, referring them on for complementary treatment doesn't get rid of them. Dr Simon Shepherd's research found those who are heavy users of alternative therapies are also heavy users of the NHS. It doesn't reduce their demands on doctors.

WHAT is the official NHS view? The Department of Health says it is "agnostic". "It's all a matter of balancing what's clinically effective with what patients want." But should it be? Elsewhere in the Department of Health's brain, there is a very different set of priorities. Health ministers are setting up a National Institute of Clinical Effectiveness (Nice), designed to ensure that every treatment, operation or medicine used is the proven best. It will root out under-performing doctors and useless treatments, spreading best practice everywhere. Its

watchword is evidence-based medicine.

What will Nice do when it collides with all this? Homeopathy is firmly entrenched in the NHS. (There are five NHS homeopathic hospitals.) Growing NHS sums are spent on the basis of no evidence at all. This will be a clash of cultures between science and superstition, reason versus the New Age.

Some complementary practitioners protest that their art is not susceptible to clinical trials. ("Humanity can't be studied like rats in boxes: the patient is a part of their own healing process.") But that simply cannot be true. Either something makes people better or it doesn't. If they could prove their placebo effect was stronger than any other, even that would do as proof of a kind. (Though it would create an ethical dilemma: should doctors knowingly fool patients with mumbo-jumbo? Treating the whole person with humanity may be a gift not enough doctors have, but that's not a reason to turn to handier witchdoctors. If we allow a return to alchemical thinking, we'll never know what works.)

The more reasonable complementary practitioners complain that virtually no research money has been spent on clinical trials. So this is work Nice should do. A pre-election Labour health document promised research funding to investigate complementary medicine, presumably trying to woo the alternative vote. That is a reason they should now keep. Research might well show some alternative treatments work. But everything that doesn't work should be sent packing from the NHS and universities, flying the flag of scientific proof.

Blair still hopes to get the measure of Murdoch

Sleeping with a tiger

Michael White

TONY Blair and Alastair Campbell are right about one thing. From Radio 4 to Fleet Street and back, Rupert Murdoch's media rivals are obsessed with him. But so is Downing Street obsessed with him. And both sides are right. After all, if Mr Blair uses his office to quiz Romano Prodi, even for 20 seconds, about a potential Murdoch takeover, that's news. If his press office repeatedly seeks to disparage reports of the exchange ("a complete joke", "crap", etc) that now familiar tactic is likely to arouse even greater interest.

A transcript of last week's exchanges would probably show no direct lies were told by Downing Street staff: a denial which is not quite a denial comes easily with practice; "crap", for example, or "private conversation". But the bluster was highly misleading about the reports, the first of which

was almost certainly confirmed to Le Monde by an Italian Alastair Campbell.

So much for the media village angle. But it is also real money — and real politics. This may not be in the ICI/DuPont league, but the PM's interest — they do not like the word "intervention" — in a £2 billion investment of BSkyB profits in Italy is a story, on a market-sensitive matter too. Moreover, Mr Murdoch is now an American, one who had done Mr Blair a great favour by switching the Sun's loyalty as soon as the last election was announced. "The final decision will be Rupert Murdoch's," my Sun counterpart, Trevor Kavanagh, told a Guardian seminar 12 months ago. It certainly was.

In fairness, this sort of thing has been going on for 100 years. As early as 1916 the press lords — Harmsworth and Beaverbrook — helped topple the Asquith premiership. Today the combination of weak national governments — everywhere

— and globalised wall-to-wall media has made the stakes even higher.

From tabloids to digital, Mr Murdoch is the Napoleon of modern media. So Mr Blair is right to invest time trying to neutralise the anti-Labour bias of this former Oxford Marxist, whose economic determinism still shines through his monopolistic business strategies. So does his contempt for Britain, except as a BSkyB-cash-cow.

The real question is: how far should a premier or president and their staff go? And is appeasement ultimately futile? That is what Baldwin concluded in 1931 when he finally turned on Beaverbrook and (by then) Rothemann for exercising "power without responsibility, the prerogative of the baron throughout the ages."

The analogy remains apt: politically, Mr Murdoch sleeps around. But Mr Blair is still a long way from reaching that conclusion. Though constantly warned

that he is sleeping with a very big tiger, one who gobble up Gough Whitlam's Australian Labour premiership when Tony was in school, and screwed the Kennedys in Boston, Mr Blair believes he has the measure of Murdoch and his kind. Good luck.

He also believes that, if he can get Mr Murdoch con-

Berlusconi who cut out the middleman and became prime minister himself, the argument runs, his titles might be less crudely xenophobic. Look how sensitive Chris Patten found he is to Chinese feelings!

It is a decent hope and one day someone must get the better of Rupert, who is 67 and (his father died at 68) struggling to protect the dynasty. But Mr Blair is stuck with two pre-election legacies. New Labour was excessively censorious about Tony's sleaze, about dodgy Tory business links when John and Maggie "batted for Britain." Labour was also over-ambitious in its efforts to control the media message.

Since the unifying of media and ministers, as in this weekend's leaked memos from Mr Campbell to Harriet Harman and Frank Field, in government both problems are harder to manage.

Michael White is the Guardian's Political Editor

The real question is: how far should a premier go? And is appeasement futile?

mercially engaged in Europe, he can weaken his hostility to the single currency, a crucial calculation for Blair's promised referendum. Unlike some UK manufacturers, the Sun does not export many copies to Italy.

If Rupert bought fellow-media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi's Mediastar (the same

American graffiti

Peter Preston



PLUCK one damned thing after another from the events of the last few days and ask yourself the questions that the English (especially) never ask. What kind of country are we living in? We have a Minister of Culture. What culture? We believe that there is such a thing as society. What society?

Take a single week of damned things. The Oscars begin it, and are universally reported with gushy reverence. America's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — grey, anonymous, calculating — is yet again the ultimate arbiter of our cinematic fate. Four British actresses, but only a sporting smile and a rush of cleavage to keep them warm. The solitary Soho nightclub from the Full Monty is suddenly a national heroine.

Bill Clinton, pavilioned in weighty editorials, discovers Africa, and lands in one former British colony (Ghana) before heading for another (Botswana). He gets red carpetings beyond the Queen's inaugurations. Meanwhile the Ulster peace "process" isn't proceeding. Senator George Mitchell, the master of the non-revels, looks glum. Plans for a London mayoralty inspired by Rough Rndy, the Mayor of New York, are duly unveiled.

Then we switch on the BBC news. Two little boys have shot four little girls and their teacher in a school playground. The British Broadcasting Corporation leads its bulletins on the horror throughout the day: the British press backs down a few more forests. Where was this playground? Action. Accorntion. Aberdeen? No. Arkansas.

Golly, things have to get cheerier after that. They do. The stars of Friends are in London to make an episode. Matt and Matthew go to a blonde lap dancer where a blonde lap dancer called Lee thinks they liked her. "I could feel Matt watching me. He seemed mesmerised." Lee, 29, "would like to do some glamour modelling too — and I'm saving up for a breast enlargement operation." Meanwhile, a few miles across town, the Times ceremonially dumps Tony Blair in the mire. Yip, he did go running to the Italian Prime Minister over Rupert Murdoch's bid for the Berlusconi empire. Alastair Campbell may be obfuscating away, but the Murdoch men in America have lost their coy-

ness. Ouch! Better concentrate, perhaps, on Frank Field's "Welfare to Work", in the footsteps of Bill and Hillary.

And the ironies continue. This tapestry unfolds in the week that 11 of our European partners sign up for EMU. That raises scant excitement. Who cares, when the kids and moms of Jonesboro are weeping on camera?

NOR are these events, and the reactions to them, shallow or random. The Oscars, with natural hype, are assumed to define national success and failure. Our media coverage hits exactly the tone you'd expect from the local Texan press and TV. Dallas girl wears stunning red dress to the party. Austin actress misses a Houston tuxedo triumph. Local headlines: local assumptions.

We don't notice the difference any longer. If Matt Le Blanc had watched a lap dancer in Abilene, the squawk would have been exactly the same. Our measurement of ourselves, of our centre of gravity, has changed utterly. The assumption that we are just another part of the Greater American Empire is implicit, unquestioned.

Yet pause over Jonesboro, because the signals are also curiously confused. If two black boys with an armoured band loosed off in Toulouse or Troyes, would the papers have cleared their front pages and British broadcasters re-ordered their newscasts? Surely

not. The tale would have been there or thereabouts for a while, but with nothing like the resonant hysteria. The moms and dads would have spoken that funny Blair language. There would have been no simple echoes of Dunblane or Jamie Bulger, no video nasties to reignite that old debate, no Mirror headlines about "Rambo boy" as a "Natural Born Child Killer". For Arkansas, Britain might as well be on the other side of the Moon. But for Britain, Jonesboro gets treated like Tooting or Tottenham.

This is more than odd. It begins to grow choking. The relevance of Jonesboro — if it has any relevance — is that, possibly, it truly comes from another world. Nothing, sweet nothing, will be done about the murder and the mayhem in America's armed and dangerous society. For all the tears and the wallings, nobody — a week on Monday — will have turned in a gun or promulgated a new law. The Straw crackdown here after Dunblane would be blankly impossible there.

THUS the torrent of articles examining America's obsession with the gun; but barely a trickle naming the fundamental connection which lies beyond. The United States is not a society like ours, peopled by men and women like us. It is a deeply foreign land, and — in that sense — deeply alien.

No value judgments here. I (perhaps like you) find fascination and some inspiration as the Statue of Liberty hoves into view. But what I don't find is a country which, in



Who cares, when the kids and moms of Jonesboro are weeping?

most of its instincts, reminds me of Britain — only of an ersatz United Kingdom, mocked up on the MGM backlot and peddled wholesale as though it were the real thing.

The Government, like every modern British government, doesn't seem to sense that divide. Tony Blair, hilariously, doesn't see the canyon of understanding which yawns between his cosyings with Clinton in the White House and his visionary chats to the French Assembly. He realises that there has to be a choice, however gentle, however benign. He comprehends, perhaps to excess, the visceral traditions which grip old Ireland, yet cannot define the essence of being British at the end of the 20th Century.

Is that an issue, in the political sense? Surely, we just go along for the ride without thinking. We fulminate against the oppressive political cultures of Europe, arriving to denude us of our nationhood, but put out the flags for Oscar nominees and sitcom stars. We bang on about our sovereignty, but turn over the sovereignty of a chunk of GB to a superannuated US Senator — with the Big Man in the Oval Office right behind him. The world of Little Rock seems closer than Calais.

Well, it's all the same language, isn't it? Ours, there's the cultural imperialism of mass TV, movies, pop, the Internet. There is no need to worry like the French or the Germans. Our tongue is the winning side. Other things, though, go with the winning. Oscar prizes are exacted. And it shouldn't take four little dead girls in a playground far away to tell us so.

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One Nation aspirations

Consensus is the key

THE Conservatives returned to big C words over the week-end: care, compassion, concern. Their party political broadcast on Friday night, re-ran the soundtrack from William Hague's annual conference speech: "I want everyone to understand: compassion is not a bolt-on extra; it is at the very core of Conservatism." The Conservative Council meeting in Harrogate at the weekend continued with the same theme. And in yesterday's Observer, William Hague was even ready to signal a possible U-turn on the party's longstanding opposition to the minimum wage. Yet, contrast this One Nation Tory revivalism with the party's petty and pathetic point-scoring response to Frank Field's green paper on welfare reform last week.

The Conservatives are in danger of making the same mistake over the restructuring of the welfare state as they did with its launch 50 years ago. Their criticism of the Beveridge Report, which created national social insurance, and their vote against the

Labour Act setting up the National Health Service, has haunted them for five decades. An opposition party's role is to oppose, but if it moves from constructive opposition to petty political point-scoring on serious reforms, it just demeans itself. Even Conservative commentators appeared appalled by the shadow social security secretary's yab-yoo response to last week's proposals. What made it even more demeaning was the fact that Frank Field had gone out of his way to be non-partisan in setting out Labour's plan. The Labour minister is only too aware of the need for bipartisan agreement if long-term reform is to be achieved.

Take pensions. Britain has been bedevilled by its failure to achieve a consensus. In the last three decades there has been a succession of plans: Crossman, Joseph, Castle, Fowler and now Denham — with successive ministers either dramatically changing their predecessors' plans or even tearing them up. How does a society plan for its retirement when state pension schemes have an average shelf-life of five years? That's one reason why so many — over half of workers — have opted for the private market. Until now, chaos in the state system has left the pensions industry unperturbed. It has only meant more business. But a new world begins with all major

political parties agreed that the private pensions industry will be playing an even more important role. This is even more reason for the Conservatives to demonstrate some statesmanship — otherwise they will fall foul of this powerful insurance lobby. The Tories should never forget that as well as losing the early 1940s social policy debate they lost the 1945 election too.

If Frank Field can be photographed on the same sofa as Harriet Harman after their rows, William Hague should be able to join Tony Blair in redesigning Beveridge. Indeed, if he wants the public to believe the new Conservative commitment to compassion, he must signal his readiness to search for a consensus. Otherwise Joe Public may hold on to the old view of the Tories. In Hague's words: arrogant, selfish and conceited.

Immoral bank

Jewish assets must be repaid

THIS week ministers will attempt to heal a wound that has hurt for over 50 years. It will issue a report on the vexed business of "ex-enemy property" — the assets of refugees from Nazism, most of them Jews, who

regarded Britain as a safe place to put their money. Except their money was not safe. First it was frozen, along with all "enemy assets", by the Treasury. Then much of it was handed over to British companies to compensate them for the losses they had incurred abroad, whether by Nazi occupation or communist takeover. In other words, Jews who had lost everything could not even claim the money that was theirs — instead they were made to pay for the sins of their persecutors.

On Friday the Department of Trade and Industry will announce the Government's proposals to make amends — not just for the diversion of assets, but also for the post-war rules which made it near-impossible for Holocaust victims to reclaim their savings. Records show the unclaimed cash could run into the hundreds of millions of pounds in today's money. The Guardian reported on Saturday that the likeliest plan is a compensation fund of about £2 million to repay the survivors of Nazism.

If this is what the Government suggests on Friday it will be a grave disappointment. For one thing, the sum of money is paltry — a fraction of the estimated £35 million deposited in Britain in 1945 prices. For another, Jewish groups say they are not interested in "compensation", a "hardship

fund" or a "gesture". Such a move would miss the point: these claimants are not a charity case — the money belongs to them.

More deeply, if the Government takes this route it will be dodging what, in some ways, is the key purpose of the exercise: facing up to the conduct of its predecessors two generations ago. It is this reckoning with the past that activists say they want most. Of course the pressures of war and post-war reconstruction meant ethical corners had to be cut; but now, 50 years on, it is surely time for every nation to recognise and admit what they did. Britain's record is better than most: we fought the Nazis to defeat and we took in a modest number of Jewish refugees. But now Britain risks being alone in refusing to address its past: even the Swiss took steps to make amends last week. Politically, the Government is keen to heal relations with the Jewish community bruised by Robin Cook's visit to Israel and in time for Tony Blair's upcoming trip to the country. If London were to follow the lead set by Washington — which is said to be establishing a 20-person commission on the linked questions of wartime assets, gold and art treasures — it would help that immediate process and a graver one, too: the reckoning with the darkest period in the century's history.

Letters to the Editor

Orange and tomato soup

I WOULD be intrigued to know Anne Atkins's source for her claim that Stanley Kubrick withdrew A Clockwork Orange in UK after realising it incited violence (Nurse, the screens, The Week, March 28). This ignores the more plausible explanation that he withdrew the film because he was fed up with hysterical, sensationalised and wildly inaccurate articles in the British media that blamed his film for every act of violence between its release and its withdrawal 18 months later. Why did he not withdraw the film everywhere else as well? Michael Brooke, London.

HAS anyone got a copy of an American film pointed out particularly at the British market (The crying game, G2, March 27)? I would like to see one and compare it with our conscious efforts to create success over there. Can't you just hear the man from Deutsche Grammophon saying, "Can you go back and give it another go Mr Beethoven; the book just won't work in the US grunge market?" Let's hope Sally Hibbin and her peers keep making films that people want to watch regardless of their own backgrounds. Andrew Allen, Sevenoaks, Kent.

I AM Sansom's food-obsessed review of Nick Hornby's About a Boy (A Boy in a Boy, G2, March 26) was itself a sour old mess of grits. With his toffee nose in the air, Ian makes sure we are aware of his knowledge of contemporary pop music and not a contemporary American fiction by offering numerous references and opinions but precious little insight. So whilst ensuring that I shall always think of Mr Hornby as a tin of tomato soup, Mr Sansom shall serve me a cold spotted dick. Richard Musgrave, Stafford.

Racism behind bars

WHEN I first read of Richard Tilt's remarks on the high rate of deaths of blacks in prison (Anger at gaffe over black's jail death, March 27) I was prepared to say it was the unfortunate utterance of a man under pressure from Mr Crampton. But then he told Radio 4 that one of the deceased had been suffering from sickle cell anaemia and that finding justified his suggestion that Afro-Caribbean people were more susceptible to asphyxiation. With such a considered reply, I would have thought that Mr Tilt would find it difficult to refute the charge of racism.

As a practising barrister, I am aware that for every death of a black man in prison, many more are blatantly targeted and abused, racially or physically, by those who are supposed to be looking after their welfare. What Mr Tilt has done is to encourage that element in his employment. Leroy Redhead, London.

RICHARD Tilt, whom I know from serving on the steering committee of the Prison Service Review last

year, is not racist. The Prison Service was concerned about restraint-related deaths in prisons and the preponderance of black prisoners who had died in this way. One piece of advice it received was that black people with sickle-cell condition may be more vulnerable because of lower oxygen take-up in their blood. The Prison Service recognised that similar problems might arise for any prisoner with a condition which caused lower blood-oxygen levels and issued new guidelines on restraint. Since then there have been no further deaths. The Prison Service under Richard Tilt has been making every effort to eradicate racism and create less brutal regimes in trying circumstances (not the least, the previous home secretary). Prof Colin Tait, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd.

I AM a civilian seconded to the Prison Service. Mr Tilt is a genuinely caring individual who has been consistent in his concern for the prisoners as well as the staff. The Prison Service needs a man of his type of commitment to help it

recover from the battering it received at the hands of the Conservatives. Good morale and discipline are, after all, the prisoners' best hope of fair and humane treatment. Malcolm Revis, Rochester, Kent.

SO Richard Tilt argues that black people are more likely to suffer positional asphyxia than whites and that the causes are physiological. He's right. People with black skins (a physiological difference) are indeed more likely to be strangled by prison officers. Or have I misunderstood him? Roy Smith, London.

ALTON Manning was brutally assaulted by seven men. To have returned their evil of unlawfully killed, the lowest jury must have been satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that death resulted from a homicidal crime — the same standard as required in a criminal trial. Presumably he can expect an announcement soon of manslaughter or murder prosecutions against these men. Gary Slapper, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Low morale puts stress on NHS

THOUSANDS of nurses like me have left the NHS because of work-related stress (Sick leave costs NHS £700m a year, March 25). Turnover in hospitals is estimated to cost each trust £2.5 million a year, about £5,000 to replace each nurse.

The basic problem is that staff have little job satisfaction, working on a disorganised conveyor belt. Patients are not cared for in the way nurses would like them to be. Projects such as a failure to lose weight of dedicated students on the wards, ill treatment of SENs and failed NVQ training for care assistants.

The Patient's Charter induces hostility towards nurses and doctors. Introducing "named nurses" has simply passed the buck, turning nurses into isolated unsupported, stressed-out and frightened "one-man teams". Trusts fragmented hospitals into directorates, each with their own budgets. Managers were recruited from places like supermarkets. Some of these turned senior nurses' heads with sales talks and expensive trips to America to take on ideas of ward design and management.

In the past nurses were trained to deal with illness and

death. Team nursing involved all the ward's nursing staff taking on the responsibility together for their patients and each other. Now most nurses are treated like remote units to be shuffled around on a rota, forced to work "flexible" shifts regardless of their home circumstances or the effect on their health.

Though health authorities and the Government are aware they have a serious problem, they have been too stubborn to admit that mounting sick leave needs to be tackled at source, by reviewing training, and the ward environment and working conditions. But for many nurses it will be too late. Frances Wheatley, Poole, Dorset.



Another side of John Keats

BOB DYLAN's status as a poet proper, as claimed by Chris Smith (Fide far away, dissolve... to Dylan, March 27) should be clear enough from an examination of his lyrics as "The violence of a summer's dream" or "Tree-tops uprooted 'neath a heavy crescent moon".

On the link with Keats, the latter's La Belle Dame Sans Merci is based on the Anglo-Scottish ballad tradition, which itself crossed the Atlantic and was a formative influence on Dylan — who has recorded ballads like House Carpenter, and has recently, in his music and in interviews, reminded the world of his roots in the folk tradition. The folk element common to Dylan and Keats suggests that you may be over-simplifying

matters by presenting the comparisons as "high culture versus low culture". Christopher Rollason, Metz, France.

COMPARING words to be sung is fatuous (Leader, March 28). How does Lorenz Hart stack up against John Donne? Who cares. As for the suggestion that the words and works of Bob Dylan probably won't "endure", they already have. But remind me: who was Frank Kermode again? Not, by the way, "the geometry of innocence" — Dylan would never write such a meaningless abstraction — but "the geometry of innocent flesh on the bone" (Tombstone Blues). Tony Walton, Hove, East Sussex.

Out of order

YOU mention buying mail order via the Internet (Is this the price I should be paying, Jobs and Money, March 28). I recently had an unpleasant surprise, courtesy of HM Customs and the Royal Mail, when I bought two CDs and a T-shirt from a US mail-order company.

The goods cost \$73.50 plus postage and packing of \$14.00, billed to me on my credit card as \$87.71. Before these items could be delivered to me, however, I had to pay additional charges in this country of £12.65, made up of £1.81 import duty, £9.84 VAT and a Post Office clearance fee of £1.20.

When I queried this with the Post Office, I was told it was EU policy to make these charges on goods worth more than £18 imported from outside the Community. When I said that I had checked the value of the goods against the amount of duty charged and found a discrepancy, I was told that VAT had also been charged on the postage and packing.

David Leversedge, Steyning, W Sussex.

We regret that many letters have not arrived because of a postal strike. We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a postal address. The Country Diary is on page 13.

Former prime minister sets record straight on Lestor

JULIA Langdon is wrong to say that it was at my initiative that Joan Lestor was "switched from the Foreign Office" (Legend of the Left, Obituary, March 28). On the contrary, it was as a result of my specific request that she joined me as a junior minister at the Foreign Office, because I valued her life-long commitment to anti-racism and to the developing world.

I certainly did not ask for her to be moved from the Foreign Office and was very sorry when she decided to go to Education, and even more regretful when she later resigned from that department and from the government altogether. Neither of these decisions affected her longstanding personal friendship with my wife and myself, which remained until the end. Lord Callaghan, London.

MICHAEL White was wrong to say (Labour veteran Joan Lestor dies aged 66, March 28) that Joan Lestor resigned from Harold Wilson's Government in 1976 because of their decision to postpone the raising of the school-leaving age. She resigned, as Julia Langdon said in her obituary, because of cuts (by Denis Healey) in the education budget which affected nursery schools — and she was succeeded by Margaret Beckett.

It was Roy Jenkins as chancellor who persuaded Wilson's

previous government in 1968 to postpone the raising of the school-leaving age. It was raised to 16 when Margaret Thatcher was secretary of state for education in 1972. Richard Jameson, Aldbury, Herts.

Capital joke

PHIL Redmond may well have cause for complaint about the Beeb's concentration on London (Blair's two nations drift apart, The Week, March 28), but the Government cannot be traced with the same brush. One only has to check the constituencies of Cabinet members to realise this: Tony Blair (Sedgefield, Durham), John Prescott (Bull East), Robin Cook (Gillingham), Gordon Brown (Don Valley East) etc. Of the 26 Cabinet members in the Commons, only three have London seats: Frank Dobson, Chris Smith, and Harriet Harman. Tim Hall, London.

OF COURSE any British city "would kill" for London's transport network — it would probably work efficiently in a smaller city. As it is, we have to put up with a service which makes us a laughing stock among Europe's capitals. Michael Hollick, London.

Endpiece: Citizen's charter

Roy Hattersley



IT SEEMS that the Führer is coming back into fashion — not (at least in this country) as an object of veneration, but as a debating point to be employed as an alternative to serious argument. A month ago, John Mortimer ended his defence of fox hunting with the portentous revelation that it had been banned in the Third Reich. In last Thursday's Times, William Rees Mogg concluded his polemic against changing the voting system with the solemn warning that proportional representation "gave us Hitler".

Perhaps he got the idea for making our flesh creep from the Daily Telegraph. On Tuesday that paper reported that Patrick Tobin, the head of a Scottish public school and

chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, had accused Professor Michael Barber of "adopting the failed approach of the French Revolution and Nazi Germany". Barber — the head of the Department of Education's Standards and Effectiveness Unit — had spoken to the Secondary Heads' Association on the importance of encouraging good citizenship rather than teaching what used to be called "religious knowledge".

Mr Mortimer's opposition to the anti-blood sports lobby is directed towards what he regards as their intolerance. But he does not really believe that a process which feeds with the protection of foxes would end with the persecution of the Jews. Nor does Lord Rees Mogg imagine that if the Jenkins Commission recommends the introduction of the single transferable vote, we will soon have a National Front majority in parliament. I do not know Patrick Tobin, but if he thinks that Professor Barber's good citizens will either turn Westminster Abbey into a Temple of Reason or form their children into The Blair Youth, his school is in urgent need of help from the Standards Effectiveness Unit.

The three gentlemen were not really interested in the relevance of their compar-

isons. They aspired to be offensive and succeeded only in being absurd. I doubt if they refuse to listen to Wagner because he was Hitler's favourite composer or boycott motorways rather than drive in the manner which Hitler encouraged when he invested in the German autobahn.

And now, according to the Tobin view of history, did Nazi Germany's approach to religious education fail? If he is suggesting that Professor Barber, like Dr Goebbels, wants to suppress organised Christianity, he is in error about the attitude of both parties to his spurious unholy alliance. Being a moralist, he will confirm that two wrongs do not make nonsense plausible.

Although the news may not have reached the private sector of Scottish secondary education, the complaint that the Jews are currently making against Pope Pius XII is that he was prepared to ignore the enormities of the Nazi regime as long as it allowed the Catholic Church in Germany in general (and Bavaria in particular) to maintain its place in the hearts, minds and consciousness of the people. The allegation may be a slander. But the facts on which it is founded — the Pope's silence and the Church's secrecy — are beyond dispute. So was

the high moral tone of Professor Barber's lecture on a school's duty to encourage and inculcate what he described as generally acceptable ethical principles.

THE ONE bonus provided by Mr Tobin's outburst is the attention which it has focused on Professor Barber's opinions. Barber believes that "an amoral society of unfettered individualism, competing in global markets on mobile telephones in a world where inequality is increasing, is inconsistent with ensuring a planet for the future generations". I would not myself have described the contemporary dilemma in exactly those words, but it is difficult to disagree with the general thrust of the Barber argument.

It may be that Mr Tobin — the shop steward of the public school headmasters' union — was more worried about Professor Barber's language than the drift of his thought. In the lecture, the word "citizenship" was used to describe the human obligation to be members of one another, and "Citizen" — to those whose knowledge of the French Revolution is based on Baroness Orcutt's Scarlet Pimpernel novel — means heroic aristocrats being herded to the guil-

lotine by unshaven Jacobins with tricolour cockades in their caps. But I suspect that Mr Tobin (whose reading habits are unknown to me) was influenced by another word which appeared in the lecture — minority.

Professor Barber committed the unforgivable crime of describing the current state of Christianity in Britain. It has, he said in less than eloquent language, "become a minority interest, still hugely influential historically and culturally but no longer able to claim unquestioning obedience even amongst its adherents and finding it necessary and painful to change." It is the accuracy of that judgment that provokes resentment amongst the worshipping classes. Mr Tobin's reaction is comparable to the response of football supporters who, knowing that their team is to be relegated, are angered by reason of rival fans chanting, "Going down! Going down!" As my mother used to say, truth hurts.

The decline of organised Christianity is a truth which we will have to accept if we are to build a more tolerant and more cohesive society. I suspect that in this country more people now go to mosques, gurdwaras, temples and synagogues on Fridays and Saturdays than turn up at

churches and chapels on Sundays. We may be able to build on what Professor Barber calls "the still highly influential Christian legacy" to create a mutually respected moral code. But attempts to impose the formalities of that faith — by formal acts of worship in schools or religious education, concerned exclusively with Christianity — is not the way to do it.

If Mr Tobin pauses for a moment, he may come to the conclusion that the reference to Nazi Germany was unacceptably offensive and the comparison with the French Revolution an embarrassing indication of historic prejudice. It was Napoleon — the heir to 1789 — who introduced France's good neighbour laws, the legal obligation of one citizen to go to the aid of another in distress. These days, people are rarely prosecuted for failing to jump into canals in order to rescue drowning babies or for neglecting to rush into burning buildings in search of old ladies overcome by smoke. But almost uniquely, the idea of mutual assistance has been built into the French constitution. Professor Barber wanted to do no more than discuss how that admirable concept could be encouraged. The sooner he tries again the better.

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Joan Maynard

A daughter of the soil

JOAN Maynard, who has died aged 76, will be remembered above all for the part she played in ending the tied-cottage system that caused misery for many rural workers and their families. Within days of her election to Parliament in October 1974, she wrote to 10 members of the Cabinet urging that a bill to end tied cottages be introduced in the Queen's Speech. She was unsuccessful first time around but, within two years, thanks mainly to her tireless lobbying, the Rent (Agriculture) Act was on the statute book. It did not go as far as she would have liked. Estate workers were exempted — the only hope of getting such a measure past the landed interests in the House of Lords. But the Act gave agricultural workers security of tenure and brought them within the scope of the Rent Acts. It will be her monument.

Joan Maynard was born in the North Yorkshire village of Easingwold. Her father was a small farmer, who spent the 1920s and 1930s trying to scratch a living from 17 acres of land. Joan attended the village school at Ampleforth and left aged 14, her formal education at an end. She is one of the few working-class women ever to have been elected to Parliament.

Shortly before the war, the Maynards abandoned the struggle with the farm and moved to Thornton-le-Street, where they took over the post office and the smallholding that went with it. Joan helped with both and, during the war, did a post record. She said afterwards: "That was my first lesson in economics. I was paid less than the men."

After the war, she got involved in politics. Until 1945, the rule of the squirearchy in North Yorkshire was virtually unchallenged. The following year, Joan and a handful of other people met in Thirsk to found a Labour Party branch. She was chosen by default as secretary and, later, as a councillor, which she remained until her election to Parliament. By the time she stepped down as agent, the Thirsk and Malton constituency, despite being a Tory stronghold, had around 2,000 Labour voters, making it one of the biggest in the country.

In the early 1960s, Joan stood in South Kilvington as a Labour candidate for the district council — the first contested election in that village for a quarter of a century. She won by two votes. Next came the county council, to which she was elected in 1968, defeating the local chemist. The following year, she defeated the parson, and only met her match in 1961 when the squire himself put up against her. Three years later, she made a comeback — defeating the squire. Her supporters sang *The Red Flag* on the steps of Thirsk town hall.

In 1954, she became Yorkshire county secretary of the Agricultural Workers' Union, and so began her long trade-union career. Before long, she was a thorn in the side of the union apparatchiki. They never managed to damp her down; three times running, she was elected union vice-president and when it proved impossible to vote her out, the oligarchy abolished the post.

In 1972, two years before entering Parliament, she was elected to the Labour's National Executive Committee, on which she remained for all but one of the next 15 years. In this capacity, she played an important part in the struggle between right and left that rent the party in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Since she invariably sided with the members against the leadership, she was naturally more popular with the rank and file than with many of her parliamentary colleagues.

I first met Joan in September 1974, when we were both candidates for the parliamentary nomination for High Peak to Derbyshire, then a



She had ultimate faith in the people of the sort that has deserted most activists by the time they are 30

Tory-held marginal. Neither of us was successful, which, in Joan's case, turned out to be an enormous stroke of luck. A few days later, Sheffield Brightside, a Labour stronghold, de-selected its sitting MP, Eddie Griffiths. Joan was chosen to succeed him. Three weeks later, she was to Parliament. High Peak stayed Tory.

Joan was always courteous, but never minced her words. She had a keen sense of class struggle. She often talked of "their people" and "our people". She was politically fearless. She was, for example, one of only a dozen MPs to vote against the Prevention of Terrorism Act from the outset. She also favoured British withdrawal from Ireland, and never hesitated to say so.

Her espousal of left-wing causes, in language that was straightforward but never strident, led some people to

brand her a zealot. They did not know her. How could someone who replaced the picture of Lenin on her living-room wall with water-colours by Nicholas Ridley be a zealot? She also formed some unlikely alliances. On the agricultural select committee, she often teamed up with the independent-minded Tory, Sir Richard Body, to oppose the excesses of factory farming, which had desecrated the countryside she loved.

Neil Kinnock was right when he said of her: "Joan never bothers to wrap up her statements with the usual reservations and this has earned her a reputation to some circles as a slogmising leftie. In fact, she is a very gentle person. She has ultimate faith in the people of the sort that has deserted most political activists by the time they are 30. It is absolute insurance against disillusionment."

Joan's life was never easy. In 1953, she moved with her parents to Sowerby, where they rented what was then a run-down cottage. She eventually bought it and gradually converted it into a comfortable home, where she lived until the end of her life. As her parents' health declined, she found herself — the younger daughter — looking after first one and then the other. During the early 1970s, there was a brief respite until her elder sister, Elsie, returned from America with Alzheimer's disease and it fell to Joan to take responsibility for her.

A few days before she died, I told her that I counted knowing her as one of the great privileges of my life. I will not be the only one of her many friends to feel that way.

Chris Mullin

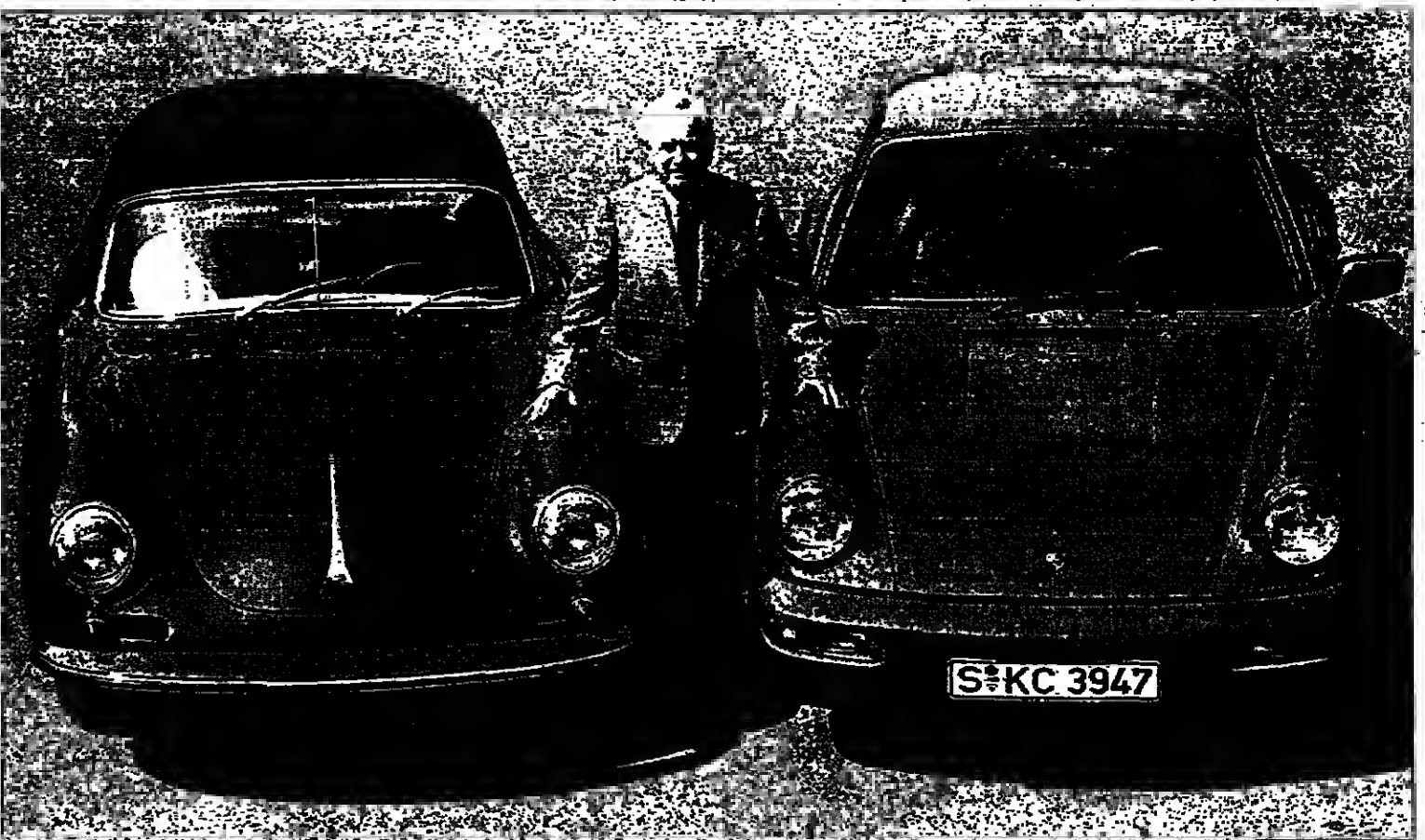
Peter Blackburn writes: I first met Joan Maynard during the 1964 general election campaign. We soon got talking about Vietnam, public ownership of land, rural issues, such as the environment, low pay and agricultural subsidies. She was not interested in promoting herself, just her socialism. To her, countryside issues were just as important to the urban dweller as to the rural one. She felt that the importance of the country's brightest young scientists was being lost. She was very angry right up to the end.

Locally, she was held in high esteem and her support of the local community was legend. She fought electricity pylons going over her beloved Hambleton Hills; she detested the Common Agricultural Policy for its destruction of the countryside. Her work with the Yorkshire Rural Community Council had meant a great deal to her and if there were any struggles going on — whether it be miners or Magnet joinery workers — she was there giving active support.

Joan sometimes gave the appearance of living solely for campaigning, but there was nothing better she liked than to walk with friends on her beloved Yorkshire moors, arriving home for tea and crumpets while listening to the classical and folk music that she loved. She was a generous, warm-hearted and highly-principled person and will be greatly missed.

David Blackburn, who succeeded Maynard as MP for Sheffield Brightside, yesterday called her a redoubtable fighter for socialism, who was a good friend of agricultural workers and someone who was embraced with warmth by the steel workers of South Yorkshire. She is a great pity she did not live to see implementation of the national minimum wage, which she espoused so strongly.

(Vers) Joan Maynard, politician and community worker, born May 5, 1921; died March 27, 1998



Motor roller... Ferry Porsche with convertible and coupe versions of his famous car — 'all of them highly-covetables toys for the fast and wealthy'

Ferry Porsche

Driving right down the fast lane

FERRY Porsche, who has died aged 88, was given his first proper car — a two-cylinder, 35 horsepower job, built by his famous father, Ferdinand — as a Christmas present in 1919. He was 10 years old. Ferdinand, eager to see if his beloved son might be a chip off the old block, prepared to show him how to drive. Before he had a chance, the boy dropped the clutch and whizzed off as if he had been driving for years.

In fact, Ferry had been driving vast and ancient chain-driven Anstro-Daimlers around the motor works at Weissach for the past six months. A little chap, he had stood on tiptoe to press the heavy clutches of those road-going Valkyries and to see along their bonnets well enough to steer. From that Christmas, the Stuttgart police turned a blind eye and he raced around town in his very own Porsche.

Ferry, who was born at the family estate in Wismar-Neustadt, Austria, seemed genetically engineered to design, test, race, develop and sell fast cars. They dominated virtually every moment of his life, save when this reserved

man was out hunting, skiing, or fussing over his favourite airdales and fox terriers. Until his death, he had been an active honorary chairman of the supervisory board of Porsche AG, the world's last major independent maker of sports cars.

Asked on his 88th birthday which was his favourite model, he answered: "The next one". Never a man to look back, perhaps this was just as well. For, although Ferry created the superbly-engineered, lightweight sports and racing cars, beginning with the 356 in 1948, that have been associated with the family name ever since, his history was dark and even murky.

He helped his father develop the Volkswagen and was very close to Hitler, who promoted the project with rapt enthusiasm. Of Hitler, he was to say: "He was a simpleton if you knew him personally." So, presumably, was Himmler, who made the young Porsche an honorary SS officer. Living up to this honour, Ferry used thousands of Russian prisoners-of-war, among other slave labourers, during the second world war to help his father design and build military versions of the

Volkswagen, as well as the Leopard, Tiger and (abortive) Mouse tanks, parts for the V1 "Doodlebug" and other nasties. Father and son seemed surprised to be held captive by the French after the fall of Berlin in May 1945. Ferry was soon released; his father was held until August 1947, by which time his health had broken.

Ferry's obsession with engineering seemed to have encouraged a detached and even ruthless streak. He analysed the wreckage of a racing car for his father when he was just 12; the death of the driver appeared to have been an unfortunate accident. He regarded the number of slave labourers passing through the Porsche works as if they so many cogs in a machine.

His reputation, however, rests on the brilliance with which he created the Porsche marque. During the war, he had transferred the family workshops from bomb-damaged Stuttgart to the safety of Gmund in Carinthia, Austria. In 1948, he unveiled his masterpiece, the low-slung, lockyweight 356, the car that has led, step by mea-

sured step, to today's peerless 911. In 1949, he made six cars. In 1951, the first 356 coupe won its class at Le Mans, and became the darling of wealthy young blades across Europe and the United States.

This was the same year that Alfred von Krupp, Hitler's most devoted business magnate, was released from prison for war crimes. A 356 was sent to pick him up. Delighted, Krupp bought one of the little cars and, as Porsche was only too delighted to report: "I would say he was our truest customer until his death" in 1967. Throughout the 1950s, Porsche devoted the company's attention as much to racing as to the production of road cars. Some of the racers, such as the ultra-lightweight 550/550A "Spyder" could be driven on the road; in 1958, James Dean the actor killed himself in one.

Bickering between rival, third-generation Porsche cousins over ownership and control of the company in the 1960s prompted Ferry to create Porsche AG in 1972, taking day-to-day management away from the family. During the next 15 years, the company rode high, reaching

peak sales of nearly 50,000 cars at the height of the yuppie boom in 1986. Seven years of recession later, worldwide sales were down to just 21,000 and the future of Porsche as an independent maker seemed in doubt.

Never one to give in, the octogenarian Ferry brought the massively hard-working and rigorous Wendelin Wieseking onto the board as chairman. This late act was a wise one. This year, Porsche is likely to sell more than 38,000 cars, all of them highly-covetables toys for the fast and wealthy.

He continued to turn up at the works twice a week until very recently, occasionally dressed as Charlie Chaplin. His wife, Dorothea ("Dodo"), died in 1985. He is survived by four sons, Butzi (who designed the 911) and Peter, who runs Porsche Design, Wolfgang, an importer of motorbikes into Austria and Gerhard, a farmer.

Jonathan Glancey
Ferry (Ferdinand Anton Ernst) Porsche, car designer and manufacturer, born September 10, 1909; died March 27, 1998

A perfect race, G2, page 14

Sir Samuel Curran

The science of war and peace

SIR Samuel Curran, who has died aged 85, was one of the elite group of British scientists who played a key role in several second world war developments, including radar and the atomic bomb. He was also a man of great breadth of vision and energy, who was deeply concerned about the interaction of science and technology with the wider world.

Curran was born in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, of Scots and Irish parentage. At Glasgow University, he gained a first in mathematics and natural history and, in 1937, was awarded a doctorate in physics. He was also a member of the Royal Society and a fellow of the Royal Society in 1938 and his enjoyment of the freedom to create new radiation measuring instruments, Curran became frustrated with academic life and, in 1935, joined William Penney (later Lord Penney) at Aldermaston developing the British H-bomb. He never expressed reservations about his work on nuclear weapons, which he saw as essential to the ending of the second world war and to cold-war stability.

It was while at Aldermaston that his acquaintance with the nuclear physicist and radiation protection expert, Fred Dalton (later Lord Dainton) developed into a lifelong friendship, during which they shared their common interest in the development of university

one of his research students, Dr Joan Struthers, whom he married in 1940, and who distinguished herself in wartime radar defence by developing the jamming and deception technique known as "window". From this aluminium foil strips dropped from aircraft. Along with Bernard Lovell, Martin Ryle, "Taffy" Bowen and others, who would later emerge as peacetime scientific household names, Curran joined the brilliant assembly of physicists and engineers at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough.

There he was involved in developing a miniature radar for use in the proximity fuse which, towards the end of the war, greatly enhanced the effectiveness of British anti-aircraft defences. Subsequently, he worked on developing short-wave (centimetric) radar, which was crucial to night-fighter interception of bombers and to location by aircraft of German submarines during the battle of the Atlantic. In 1944, he was seconded to the Berkeley Radi-

ation Laboratory in California as one of the British members of the Manhattan Project.

At Berkeley, where heavy radioactive isotopes were being produced for nuclear weapons studies, in what was then the world's largest cyclotron (an early form of particle accelerator), Curran invented a highly compact scintillation counter for determining levels of radioactivity, a device which still stands as a pillar of radiation measurement. After the war, he returned to Glasgow University, where he built the large synchrotron — an advanced form of particle accelerator.

By the mid-1950s, in spite of his election as a fellow of the Royal Society in 1953 and his enjoyment of the freedom to create new radiation measuring instruments, Curran became frustrated with academic life and, in 1955, joined William Penney (later Lord Penney) at Aldermaston developing the British H-bomb. He never expressed reservations about his work on nuclear weapons, which he saw as essential to the ending of the second world war and to cold-war stability.

It was while at Aldermaston that his acquaintance with the nuclear physicist and radiation protection expert, Fred Dalton (later Lord Dainton) developed into a lifelong friendship, during which they shared their common interest in the development of university

science education and the need for long-term government support of science policy.

In 1968, Curran was given the opportunity to put his educational ideas into practice when he became director of Glasgow's Royal College of Science and Technology. In 1984, when the college became Strathclyde University — the first British university to be devoted primarily to science and technology — he served as its first principal and vice-chancellor, posts he held until his retirement in 1980.

Knighted in 1970, Curran served on a host of technical



An art with science... Sir Samuel Curran, physicist, born May 23, 1912; died February 25, 1998

committees and was particularly concerned about energy resources and their connections with environmental problems. He was a dedicated family man, fond of the countryside and golf and a rare individual to that although a world-level mathematician and scientist with great powers of concentration, he could relax completely at a football match. He is survived by Joan and their four children.

Anthony Tucker
Sir Samuel (Crowe) Curran, physicist, born May 23, 1912; died February 25, 1998

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A report headed, Copper Rouge jailed for 5 years, which appeared with an accompanying footnote, Page 22, March 27, we may have given the impression that the Sunningdale Corporation is a member of the London Metal Exchange. That is not so. Sunningdale has never been a member of the exchange and neither has Mr Hamanaka, the trader referred to in the main story.

OUR G2 cover story, March 23, posed the question: Will Trevor Phillips be the first elected mayor of London? We have been asked to point out that Mr Phillips withdrew voluntarily from presenting CrossTalk — LWT's political programme — before the Conservatives raised the matter with the Independent Television Commission. He will not appear again until after the referendum on May 7, when the Yes/No campaign will be over. We have also been asked to say that the

references to the governance of London on CrossTalk are not dictated by Mr Phillips but by the producer of the programme.

DUE TO an electronic hitch, which went unnoticed, all the figures in an article headed Creative attention, Page 4, Guardian Media, March 23, were preceded by the figure 3. Hence, any team that created an ad which landed a top award was handed a cheque for £30,000, not £320,000. The cost of each entry in the BTAA awards was £100, the price of a place at the awards dinner, £185. Two figures referred to towards the end of the piece should have read, £15,000 and £100,000 (not, in the latter case, £3,100,000).

AN ADDENDUM to the G2 story, Pages 6 and 7, March 25, about Walter Tull, one of Britain's first black professional footballers (not the first as

stated on the front of G2 that day): Tull did indeed sign for Glasgow Rangers, late in 1918. He was killed in action before having the opportunity to play for them (details from The Rangers Historical magazine, 0141 587 2945).

THE INTERNET community has, for better or worse, decided that the "symbol" is acceptable usage; the Guardian's computer vehemently disagrees. Two Websters mentioned on yesterday's Analysis page are more fully transcribed as www.dcs.napier.ac.uk/mike/bb/c/ and <http://homepages.strath.ac.uk/~ajus6168/Uims/contents.html>.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 5539 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, Fax: 0171 239 5957. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT. Not a cloud in the sky; the sunny slopes of Mellbreak perfectly mirrored in the surface of Crummock Water and a few Heronets wandering along the unfenced lakeshore road. This was a recent, still morning in lovely Buttermere — in many respects, my favourite Lakeland valley — where, once again, we had been staying for a short holiday.

One day, on our way up Robinson, by way of Buttermere Moss, I recalled a previous, rather more challenging, visit 80 years ago when, from our car on Honister Pass, we had already traversed Fleetwith Pike, Haystacks, High Crag, High Stile and Red Pike. We had also consumed, in the Fish Hotel, several pints of foaming beer; served, I remember sedly, in those most suitable, but now rarely seen, receptacles — glazed earthenware tankards. As a result, our traverse (of Robinson, Hinds-

earth and Dale Head) that followed was rather trying, but quickly forgotten during the consumption of a vast mutton pie in Mrs Edmondson's kitchen at Seathwaite. The mutton, as always, had been slowly cooked all day in her fireplace oven, and, as they say, "just fell away". Even now, I smack my lips, in memory.

But, the other day, we were merely pottering up Robinson, enjoying the fantastic view from the comparatively lowly summit of High Snock-rigg (1,725ft). Buttermere and Crummock Water, with the smoke from the farms and cottages drifting across the meadows, seemed directly below our boots and the steep, wooded fells across the lake, split by the hanging necklaces of Sour Milk Gill. Looked at, the best views are, by no means, always from the highest places.

A HARRY GRIFFIN

Birthdays

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, former Cabinet Secretary, 71; Sarah Badel, actress, 55; Warren Beatty, actor, 61; Sir Nicolas Brown-Wilkinson, vice-chancellor, Supreme Court, 55; Eric Clapton, rock guitarist, 53; Sue Cook, television presenter, 47; Alan Davidson, ichthyologist and diplomat, 74; Graeme Edge, rock singer, 55; Sir Eric Gombert, art historian, 88; Rolf Harris, entertainer, 68; Beverley Hughes, Labour MP, 48; Prof Ron Johnston, geographer, 57; Nigel Jones, Lib Dem MP, 50; Prof Mary King, economist, 50; Frankie Laine, singer, 88; Sir Ian MacLaurin, former chairman, Tesco, 61; Brendan O'Riell, prison governor, 57; Piers Morgan, editor, the Mirror, 33; Michael Morris, arts producer, 48; Lord Rayner, former chief executive, Marks & Spencer, 72; Tom Sharpe, novelist and historian, 70.

Charm to stay on the fast track

These sentiments will find favour with all horse lovers and the millions of fans Silver Charm must have made as a result of this victory — it was estimated that over 200 million people watched the race on television in 20 countries.

But what a difference an incb or so makes in racing. The winner is feted and lorded, while the second is led

A measure of the quality of the first four home was that there was a gap of 15 lengths to the fifth horse, Behrens. Britain's hope, Luso, trailed in seventh after running prominently until starting into the home turn.

"He travelled well and was going nicely, but the winner had a lot of speed," said Pat Eddery. "When he went by, I was disappointed to see the old boy's face and he didn't like it much."

Following the unforgettable triumphs of Cigar and Sing-spiel in this race, the Dubai World Cup is rapidly becoming an unmissable event. This one certainly lived up to every cent of its \$4 million value.



Eagles get top Steer

Ayr, Superleague champions and winners of both the Benson & Hedges and Express cups, needed luck to add the Alamo trophy to their haul of silverware. Having led through Sam Gricean's 12th-minute goal, they were 2-1 down in the midway stage.

Kip Noble and Steve Thornton scored for the Devils within 76 seconds of each other. Then, with Mark Montanari equalising late in the second session and the third period remaining scoreless, the game hinged on Steer's self-admitted 'lucky goal' overrunning winger who went in for the decisive 3-1 score many from behind the net," he said. "It was tough luck on Cardiff and happy time for me I guess."

THE anticipated duel between One Man and Strong Promise in the Mumm Melling Chase on Friday is not the only clash likely to set alight the Aintree crowd.

Gordon Richards has confirmed that The Grey Monk will challenge Dorans Pride and Simply Dashing, third

and sixth in the Gold Cup, for the Martell Cup the previous afternoon.

While The Grey Monks will wait for Funchestown if the ground dries, widespread rain is forecast for the second half of the week and the going should not inconvenience Gordon Richards's grey.

Andrew Thornton has been booked by Mark Pittman to ride Superior Finish

in the Martell Grand National. The horse was third behind Rough Quest two years ago when trained by Mark's mother, Jenny.

There was a popular outcome to the first leg of the Spring Double, the Worthington Lincoln at Doncaster on Saturday, when Hunters of Brora held the late burst of King Of Tunes by a neck.

The eight-year-old mare,

placed three times in the Cambridgeshire and disqualified in the Newbury Spring Cup last year. He worked her way across from the unfavoured stands' side.

Before her next race, Hunters of Brora will visit the stallion Zilzal, and then resume training. James Bethell has entered her in several valuable handicaps, including the Royal Hunt

Cup, but would like to enhance her value as a broodmare.

The Fly is expected to line up for the John Porter Stakes at Newbury next month. He passed the post clear of his rivals at Doncaster, but was demoted to third after the stewards had found Michael Hills guilty of irresponsible riding; the jockey was suspended for seven days.

Hexham (N.H.) runners and riders

3.00 LCL PILS SERVICE HANDICAP BURNLE
2m 4f 110yds E3,013 (21-declared)

P-93	Juddish Stewarts (83) J Adams 7-11-10	R Parnell
47-23	Collister's Choice (44) J Johnson 5-11-9	L Weyer
202	Good Day (46) A Williams 4-11-8	R Harding
259-102	Soylent Green (8) J Hesterton 5-11-3	F Lester (1)

7	1002	Wendell Johnson (25) H Howard Johnson 6-11-2	W E Smith	94
8	1003	Chasman Slack (27) M Economy 5-10-13	E Taylor (P)	95
9	12357	Agnes Adams (26) M (P) 5-10-10	W Johnson	96
10	22616	Van Warden (26) Van W Snyder 4-10-9	W Johnson	97
11	6120	Harry Rector (25) C Rector 5-10-7	E Taylor (P)	98
12	10497	John Ertle (26) C Rector 5-10-7	G Allen	99
13	75303	Agnes Adams (26) H Alexander 5-10-3	F Oakley	100
14	4043	Water Paul (27) Wm M JJ O'Hara 6-10-2	E McDonald	101
15	25499	Robert Alvey (26) M Alexander 7-10-0	E Searles (P)	102

[illegible]

3-30		S.A.I.D.T. HANDICAP HURDLE		2m 4f, 110yds £2,978 (6 declared)	
1	683040	Overbrook Milling (54)	M Harnage	6-11-10	H Durrant 0400
2	024-02	Overbrook (108)	M Morgan	7-11-10	A R Smith 04
3	721-49	San Cranchan (44) (87)	J Johnson	6-11-10	L Wray 04
4	01-136	Overbrook (24)	W J Gifford	6-10-10	H Durrant 04
5	1-083	Overbrook (108)	M Morgan	7-11-10	H Durrant 04
6	1-163	Lain Leader (34)	C Gifford	6-10-10	D Frost 04

7 ECOTOP 100 Puffins (25) 9/10 J Wode 7-10-0 Thomas 37
08-450 Jumbo Star (25) 9/10 J Wode 8-10-0 S Shing 37
Bettlins 5-2 Gannets, 4-1 Marchant King, 5-1 Bonbon Dynasty, 5-1 Kallinohela, Lord Rabbit, 7-1 Rex Crocker, 74-1 Little Leader, Jumbo Star.

4.00 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICE CHASE
2m 110yds £3,285 (16 declared)

1 521 525 Jack Worley (20) 10/10 J Wode 8-11-0 S Shing 38

3	3M133	Polystyrene (22) (29) G M Hoadley 7-11-50	R Threlkeld	84
4	P-SFPI	Polystyrene (22) (29) G M Hoadley 7-11-50	R Garity +	85
5	MECP1	Polystyrene (22) (29) G M Hoadley 6-11-50	C R Remmer (3)	86
6	POP	Polystyrene (46) (48) L Russell 6-11-50	M F Packer	87
7	3-SPH	Polystyrene (46) (48) L Russell, Johnson 7-11-50	A Z	88
8	PSA	Polystyrene (46) (48) L Russell 7-11-50	R Sherry	89
9	2-SPPI	Polystyrene (46) (48) W Cunningham 6-11-50	R Smith	90
10	U1300S	Polystyrene (46) (48) L Russell 7-11-50	P Weiss	91
11	5-SPSP	Polystyrene (46) (48) L Russell 6-11-50	M R Neugebauer (3)	92

52	2-01P5	Smith, Jim (10) G	10-1	Johnson	5/1
53	0416-2	Sprague Smith, (10) A	Williams 9-11-3	J. Goffman	5/1
54	4-0232	Adams, William (10) R	J. Johnson 9-10-12	S. Barclay	5/1
55	0303C	Palmer's Patten (10) S	Thompson 6-10-8	R. Johnson	5/1
56	5-2339	St. Charles (10) J	R. Johnson 5-10-8	M. M. Thompson	5/1
57				P. Goffman	5/1

Building: B-2 Royal Charles, 11-2 Sprague Barker, 7-1 Middle Main, 8-1 Jack Years, Papayacu, Duke Of Perth.
 12-1 Milnatic, St. Clair, 20-1 Our Ws

4.30		BURNHAM ALES' CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE		2m 22.40 (4 declared)	
1	032221	Falcon (14) (4) M Hammond	5-11-12	B Martwick	30
2	222122	Paradise Saddle (4) J Bennett	7-11-10	A K Smith (4)	27
3	221143	Scotchgate (14) J Bennett	5-11-10	R Lee	23
4	122019	Madame Am (14) M Hammond	5-11-10	B Martwick	20
5	122022	Elston City (14) G Richards	7-10-10	B Martwick	17
6	10521	Courtyard (14) J Howard Johnson	5-10-10	R Taylor	15

5.00 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
 2m £1,581 (21 declared)

1	65	Lord of the Land (1967) Mrs D Sawyer	6-11-3	Mr A Scott
2		Magnum (72) Mr Sweeney	6-11-3	Mr H Thompson
3	F22	Rocky (34) Mrs A Hadden	6-11-3	Mr L Turner
4	30	Seaside Supreme (72) Mr & Mrs		Mr & Mrs
5	6	Tell Me (1968) (1971) A Hadden	6-11-3	Mr A Scott
6	4	The Western Man (72) W Sawyer	5-11-3	Mr & Mrs
7	5	The Other Half (1961) L Sawyer	6-11-3	Mr & Mrs
8	00	Yps (1968) & Richards	6-11-3	Mr & Mrs
9	F	Blunder (72) D Southworth	6-11-3	Mr D Southworth
10			A-12-3	

[illegible]

20	13	Stacy (W) E. Madison 4-10-0	3	Yager	53
21	14	Foran (W) J. Johnson 4-10-0	3	W. Allen	53

meetings 3-2 Yag Area, 7-1 Defense Express, Clinical Practice, 8-1 Valley Of Hope, Steel Ridge, The second hour, 9-1 The Cancer Hall, 10-1 Life Time, Foran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Players	1st	2nd	3rd	Lowest St	Impress	1st	2nd	3rd	Lowest St
A. Dicks	26	98	26	+19.05	E. Richards	20	81	24.7	+18.77
P. Miles	19	95	20	+25.52	G. Richards	19	82	23.7	-1.14
W. H. G. G. G. G.	13	89	14.8	+21.25	M. Miles	17	78	22.4	-7.40
R. H. H. H. H.	12	40	30	+4.15	J. H. H. H. H.	15	69	18.1	+4.01
T. H. H. H. H.	12	69	13	+22.53	P. Miles	11	61	12.1	+28.51
T. H. H. H. H.	6	11.5	13	-12.37	J. H. H. H. H.	10	61	12.1	-0.51
P. H. H. H. H.	10	39	25.5	+18.28	W. H. G. G. G.	8	59	8.49	-7.59

Trainer watch

California's Choice, M Hammond to M Jefferson; Clarence Black, P Folgate to M Sovereign; 5.00 Chalm, L-R
Lloyd-Jones to G Kelly; Top Ann, G F White to G Richards.
Upfronts: None.

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Foreign football

ITALY			
Brescia	1	Bari	1
Chievo	1	AlbinoLeffe	0

Latvia	1	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Albania	2	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
AD Roma	3	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	4	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Poland	5	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Ukraine	6	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden								
Sweden	7	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Latvia	8	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Denmark	9	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Poland	10	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
France	11	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	12	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Switzerland								
Switzerland	13	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
France	14	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	15	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Latvia	16	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	17	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	18	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Albania	19	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	20	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	21	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
SPAIN								
Albania	22	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	23	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	24	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	25	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	26	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	27	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	28	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	29	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	30	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	31	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	32	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	33	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	34	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	35	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	36	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	37	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	38	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	39	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	40	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	41	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	42	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	43	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	44	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	45	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	46	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	47	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	48	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	49	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	50	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	51	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	52	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	53	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	54	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
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Spain	56	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	57	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	58	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
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Spain	60	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
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Spain	64	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	65	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	66	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	67	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	68	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	69	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	70	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	71	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	72	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	73	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	74	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	75	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	76	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	77	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	78	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	79	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	80	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	81	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	82	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	83	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	84	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	85	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	86	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	87	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	88	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	89	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	90	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	91	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	92	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	93	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	94	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	95	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	96	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	97	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	98	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Sweden	99	27	18	8	2	56	25	87
Spain	100	27	18	8	2	56	25	87

Real Betis	1	Valencia	0
Valladolid	1	Real Madrid	1
	P	W	D
Barcelona	30	19	4
Real Madrid	31	15	10
Real Sociedad	31	18	12

[illegible]

Werder Bremen	28	18	8	18	30	40	38
Norwich City	27	18	8	11	34	42	36
Sheff Wed	26	8	8	11	34	38	35
Colchester	27	18	4	18	43	51	34
Reading	25	8	8	11	32	39	38

[illegible]

Vitoria Guimarães Q. Saturday: Benfica 1
Bogvists 2. Leading standings: 1 Porto
P27, P282; 2 Benfica 27-52; 3 Vitoria Gu-
imarães 27-45.

Non-League
CONFERENCE

[illegible]

Unibond	34	7	8	10	10	20	20
Statybridge	34	7	7	20	38	69	36

UNIBOND PREMIER

Accrington	0	Gainsboro	2
Altrincham	5	Chorley	0
Barrow	1	Emley	0
Boston	2	Gulzesoy	1
Frickley	1	Bamber &	0
Hyde	1	Blyth Spartans	0
Grimsby Town	2	Coleman Bay	1

Affton Th	0	Wineford Utd	1
Lancaster	1	B Auckland	0
Leigh RMI	2	Runcorn	2
Redcliffe Bor	0	Marine	5

Leading standings: 1 Barrow P34, P170; 6 Runcorn 34-83; 6 Boston Utd 24-80.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First Division
Ashton Utd 0 Bradford PA 1; Selzer Tn 0
Whitby Tn 1; Congleton Tn 2 Whitby
Bay 1; Dryden 2 Matlock Tn 1; Great
Harwood Tn 1 Eastwood Tn 5; Gretna
4 Sudon 0; Harrogate Tn 1 Flinton 3;

Stockbridge PS 2 Farnley Celtic 2;
Trafford 1 Worksop Tn 2; Wiltan Alb 8
Netherfield 2; Workington 1 Lincoln
Utd 1.
KYMAN LEAGUE: Premier Divi-
sion: Carshalton 1 B Stortford 2; Hichin 1
Bromley 1; Kingstonian 3 Aylesbury 0;

Oxford 2 Hendon 0; Purfleet 0 Boreham
Wood 2; St Albans 1 Gravesend 0;
Watton 2 Dagenham 1; Yeading 3 Sutton
Utd 1; Basingstoke 2 Harrow 2; Che-
sham 8 Dulwich 1. **Leading standstags: 1**
Kingstonian P38, P179; 2Sutton Utd
P10, P12, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18, P19, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31, P32, P33, P34, P35, P36, P37, P38, P39, P40, P41, P42, P43, P44, P45, P46, P47, P48, P49, P50, P51, P52, P53, P54, P55, P56, P57, P58, P59, P60, P61, P62, P63, P64, P65, P66, P67, P68, P69, P70, P71, P72, P73, P74, P75, P76, P77, P78, P79, P80, P81, P82, P83, P84, P85, P86, P87, P88, P89, P90, P91, P92, P93, P94, P95, P96, P97, P98, P99, P100.

Bognor Regis Tn 7 Abingdon Tn 0; Chertsey Tn 0 Maidenhead Utd 2; Grays Ath 2 Romford 2; Leyton Pennant 1 Hampton 0; Molesey 0 Leatherhead 2; Uxbridge 2 Barton Rvrs 1; Wembley 1 Berkhamsed

Tn 0; Whyteleaid 2 Croydon 1; Wokingham Tn 1 Staines Tn 3; Worthing 3 Thame Utd 1. **Second Division** Barking 2 Walsley 1; Bedford Tn 1 Met Police 0; Cheshunt 3 Banstead Ath 1; Edgware Tn 2 Tilbury 1; Egham Tn 1 Woking Tn 2; Wokingham 2; Frimley Tn

1; Leighton Tn 1 Tooting & Mitcham 3; Marlow 1 Braintree Tn 3; Northwood 1 Hungerford Tn 1; Windsor & Eton 8 Carvey Island 3; Wivenhoe Tn 1 Chalfont St Peter 1. Third Division: Aveley 2 Ford Utd 2; Camberley Tn 1 Hertford Tn 0;

Craydon Alb 1 Southall 2; Epsom & Ewell 7
 Thurrock Utd 2; Harlow Tn 2 Corinth-
 ian Casuals 0; Hornchurch 0 Kingsbury
 Tn 2; Lewes 2 Clapton 0; Tring Tn 3
 Flackwell Heath 1; Ware 0 Hemel Hemp-
 stead 2; Wingate & Finchley 2 Dorking
 3

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier
 Division Ashford Tn 0 Bath 1; Atherstone
 2 Gloucester C 2; Bromsgrove 1 Has-
 tings 1; Burton Albion 1 Nuneaton 0; Dor-
 chester 2 Rothwell Tn 3; Forest Green
 3 Sittingbourne 0; Graysley Rovers 2

Worcester 1; 2. Halesowen 1; Cambridge City 1; Kings Lynn 3; Salisbury 0; Merthyr 2; Crawley Town 1; St Leonards 1; Tamworth 2. **Leading scorers:** 1 Merthyr T PDS, Pts 75; 2 Forest Green 55-73; 3 King's Lynn 35-64.

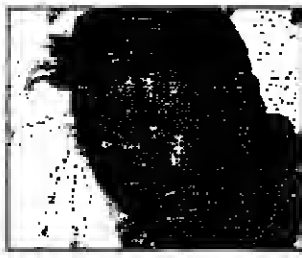
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100

In the 5-page sports section



Shining Knight
A century for Nick Knight helped England to a healthy position
12



A Finn romance
Hakkinen makes it two on the trot for the McLaren team
12

Other pages

Boxing, tennis and rugby
League 12
Cricket 12
Racing 14
Football 15

The Guardian Sport

Monday March 30 1998

Coca-Cola Cup final

Chelsea 2 Middlesbrough 0

Wise sparks Chelsea repeat

Robson suffers new heartache in extra-time

David Lacey at Wembley

AT LEAST this time Middlesbrough brought a sweat to Chelsea's brow. But the delayed entrance of Paul Gascoigne yesterday could not prevent this season's Coca-Cola Cup final going the way of last season's FA Cup final.

Again Chelsea defeated Middlesbrough 2-0, the goals coming in extra-time from Frank Sinclair and Roberto Di Matteo after the First Division side had frustrated their Premiership opponents with a mixture of disciplined defending and inspired goalkeeping.

Bryan Robson's team, however, could not find the attacking inspiration to break down a Chelsea defence superbly organised by Michael Duberry and Frank Leboeuf. The Teesside roar which greeted Gascoigne in the 64th

minute did not find an echo on the pitch. After so long without regular match practice Gascoigne was just not up to it.

Even so he came close to stealing the headlines by getting himself sent off. Having been booked by Peter Jones for fouling Gianfranco Zola, he risked dismissal by bringing down Dennis Wise just outside the Middlesbrough penalty area.

A red card then and Gascoigne's return to English football would have lasted only a few minutes longer than his previous appearance, seven years earlier, when he was stretched off in tears early in the 1991 FA Cup between Tottenham and Nottingham Forest. For Middlesbrough that would have been the ultimate anticlimax.

Nevertheless the appearance of Gascoigne did have a pivotal effect on the course of the match.

Up to that point Wise's influence for Chelsea had been severely limited by the close attentions of Robbie Mustoe but thereafter, with Middlesbrough's midfield reorganised to accommodate Gascoigne, Wise practically took the game over.

Yet Gascoigne's obvious rustiness was not Boro's biggest disappointment, which lay more in their failure to exploit Paul Merson's domination of Graeme Le Saux on

their right wing before half-time. Le Saux, like Gascoigne, had missed a number of games through injury and was lacking his usual pace and sharpness.

Merson, however, was slow to take full advantage of Le Saux's discomfort, preferring to pump angled balls in towards Marco Branca and Hamilton Ricard, an unusually cumbersome Colombian, which were easily intercepted by the Chelsea centre-backs.

Chelsea were disappointing elsewhere until Wise took charge. Yet in the space of four minutes midway through the first half they might well have put the final beyond Middlesbrough's reach. First Hughes met a dipping centre from Le Saux with a stunning volley which Mark Schwarzer, burling himself high to his left, somehow managed to push wide.

Then Zola saw a shot take a sufficient deflection off Gianluca Festa to divert it past a post, and finally Hughes, rising well to meet Zola's cross, could not get enough power in his downward header to beat the goalkeeper.

In fact Schwarzer was not beaten until two minutes before the hour, when Zola gathered a return pass from Dan Petrescu and drove the ball against the crossbar from 25 yards.

By then Middlesbrough had seen what turned out to be their two best chances of winning fail to produce an actual shot.

In the 55th minute Merson found Ricard in space only for Sinclair to tackle the Colombian before he could bring the ball under control. Two minutes later Townsend sent Ricard through but again Sinclair's covering was immaculate.

Which was more than one had been able to say for the right-back's crosses, which have never been Sinclair's strongest point. Then in the 58th minute Wise showed Sinclair how - and Sinclair gave Chelsea the lead.

Merson's misdirected return pass to Gascoigne inadvertently set up a Chelsea move which saw Sinclair and Zola work the ball out to Wise on the right. Wise centred from the byline and Sinclair headed in at the near post despite Schwarzer getting a hand to the ball.

Early in the second period of extra-time Mustoe slipped as he went to intercept Zola's corner and missed the ball, leaving Di Matteo to slip between Steve Vickers and Nigel Pearson to score clinically, if less spectacularly.



Out of reach... Mark Schwarzer gets a hand to the ball but fails to prevent Frank Sinclair heading Chelsea in front from Dennis Wise's cross yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: STU FORSTER

Playing the fool is a dangerous game

Paul Hayward at Wembley watches Paul Gascoigne get up to some bad old tricks on his final return to the English game

ALCOHOL is acknowledged to have done much damage to Paul Gascoigne's body. But his own admission has been an equally toxic brew. On his return to English club football he did more than enough to get himself sent off but escaped. Maybe the referee, like the rest of us, is in denial.

A new AA should be set up, or an AAA: Adrenaline Addicts Anonymous. Close to the spot where he almost emasculated Gary Charles in the 1991 FA Cup final Gascoigne got himself booked with a gratuitous kick at the back of Gianfranco Zola's left leg. He had been on the field five minutes. He then pressed his forehead against Zola's before barking a set of expletives and breaking into a weird grin. The usual day at the office.

The booking should have come sooner. Sixty seconds before the foul on Zola, he had slid in on Mark Hughes and raised a boot to catch the Chelsea striker's ankle. So far, so bizarre, but if the referee was trying to avoid spoiling a homecoming he was positively sympathetic in declining to punish Gascoigne's scything tackle from behind on Dennis Wise in the 14th minute of extra-time.

Shades of Roger Milford, who was similarly liberal (or negligent) when Gazza popped his cork at the start of his last club appearance in England before being shipped off to Rome.

Al, here we go again. Gazza's return was not all bad. But the truth is that in the World Cup he would have been off the pitch. Across the channel the gullotine is being sharpened for such offenders.

The story, like him, is unchanged. English football is recting the mantra that Gascoigne is crucial to the country's hopes in France. If so, Glenn Hoddle has problems. Getting Gazza over the water physically sound is just the first. When the emotion is gushing he is only marginally less volatile than when he departed this arena on a stretcher after wrecking his knee 16 minutes into his final game for Spurs.

And why should he change, when a Nationwide First Division club is willing to pay \$3.4 million to buy him out of Rangers' sick-bay and furnish his nest with a

reported \$30,000 a week. Being fitfully the most gifted player in Britain and consistently the most infuriating is highly paid work. If Gazza deserves grudging admiration it is for refusing to yield to all those telling him that he must stop being himself.

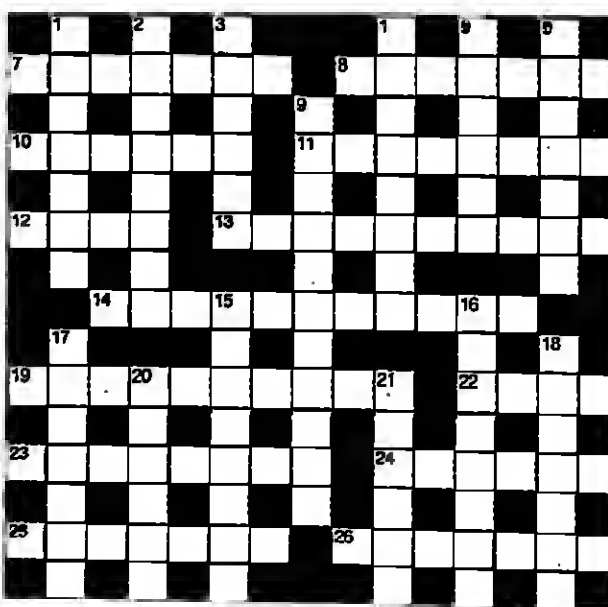
Had Gazza had more time for image consultants, he might have been accompanied up the Wembley tunnel by a vicar or a psychotherapist. Instead he emerged at 2.30pm with Stan Boardman. Not even in Shakespeare did the fool have a fool.

Gascoigne was 70 per cent fit but came on for only 30 per cent of regular time. Warming up behind Mark Schwarzer's goal, he seemed to will a fierce shot from Zola on to the crossbar. And then the subs' top came off and the roar went up. "Boro Boy" was the legend on flags above Gascoigne's face. Never mind that he was born in Newcastle.

Gascoigne's career is both charmed and cursed. Only he could make his English comeback in a cup final. Only he could invite a sending-off with so many eyes on him. But the abiding image of him hacking Wise down is a troubling ome. If Gazza does that in France, he had better make sure the bath taps are turned on early.

Guardian Crossword No 21,235

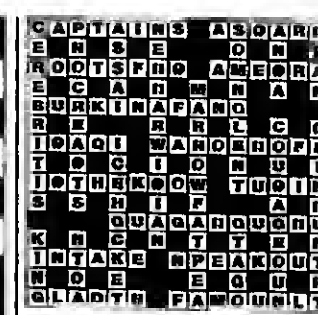
Set by Rufus



- Across**
- 7 Sackcloth and ashes in order here (7)
 - 8 Deftie and glen in the country (7)
 - 10 Best defence for a bout of illness (5)
 - 11 Recognise a criminal perhaps, but deny it if pushed (8)
 - 12 Patient biblical character embraces a headstrong one (4)
 - 13 Sound indication that a watch is fully wound up? (5,5)
 - 14 Expression of discontent - although everybody is in good health (3,4,4)
 - 19 They're neat little instruments (10)
 - 22 Some returned in carriage (4)

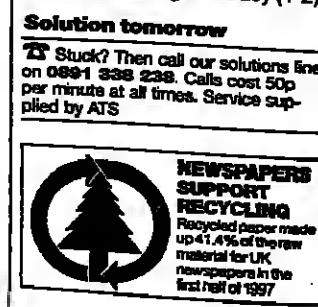
- 23 Gamble on mine product sample (5)
- 24 He's not at home with legal rules (6)
- 25 Pigs can't fly, but pigs one modifies might (7)
- 26 He must have a supporter, and may get one in me (7)

- Down**
- 1 Ornament carved out of stone (7)
 - 2 Sail North, but ordered into port (8)
 - 3 Cut it and keep quiet (6)
 - 4 Pull beneath the waves (6)
 - 5 Sort of spirit created by Noel? (6)
 - 6 A bit that's appropriate (7)
 - 9 A digital recording? (11)
 - 15 Frenzied macho types kept in check (8)
 - 16 Permit one journey if you



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,228
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are M. C. Wearing of Winslow, Cheshire; Mr F. Wood of Church Stiles, Powys; Gareth Rowlands of Ashford, Kent; Frank Ashcroft of Wigan, Lancashire; and Stephen Hill of Horfield, Bristol. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

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